完全復刻版

KC・DX
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KC

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あしたのジョー 12

KC

原作／高森朝雄
漫画／ちばてつや

講談社
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★★★★★★★

ジョーが燃えた！　ジョーがよみがえった！
戦慄のパンチをふるう黒いヒョウ、カーロス＝リベラの底知れぬ力が、ジョーを変えた！　超迫力のボクシング巨編、どうどうの第十二弾！

★★★★★★★

オリジナルデザイン／水野石文
（水野プロダクション）

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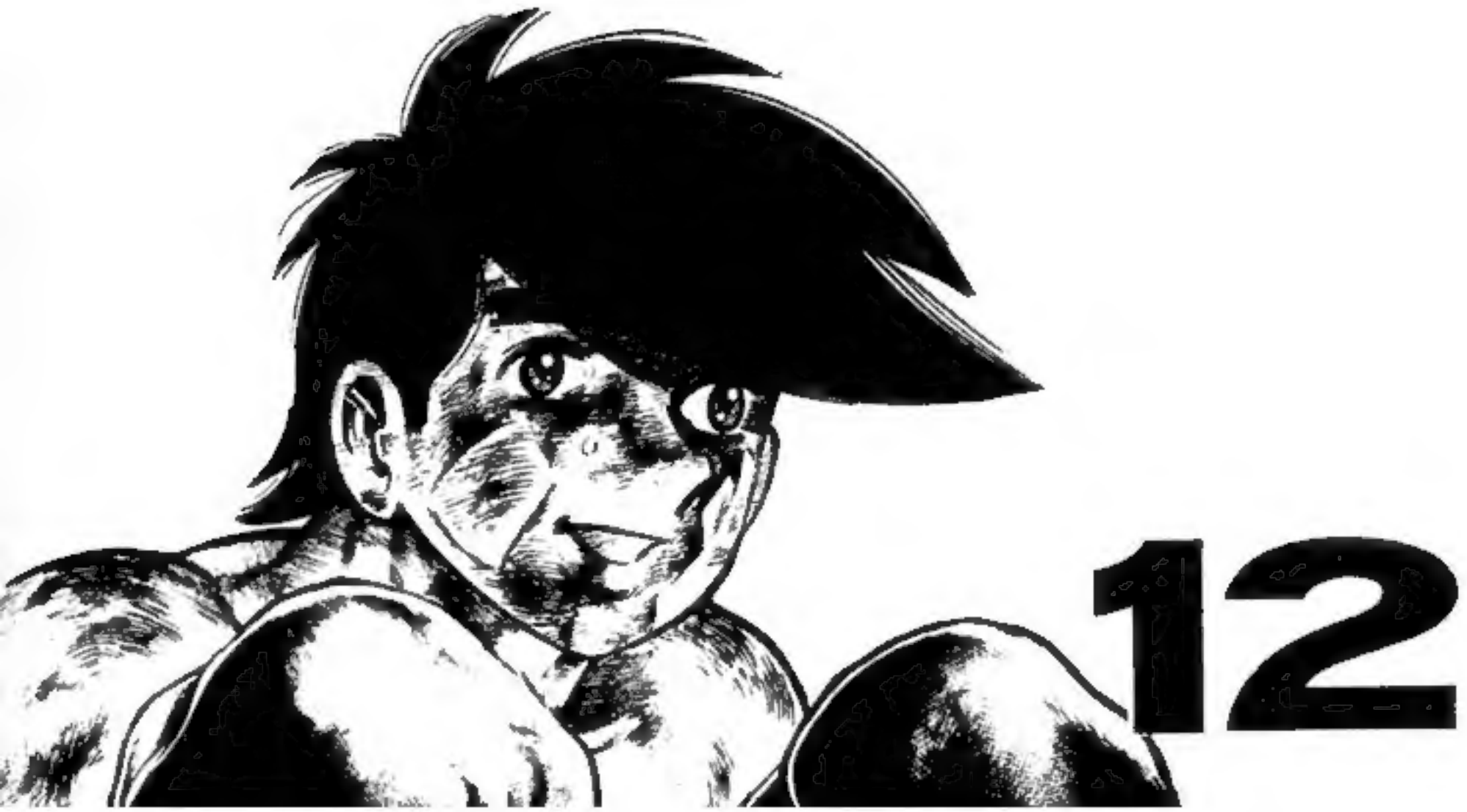


12

TOMORROW'S JOE

Written by Asao Takamori (Kajiwara Ikki)
Drawn by Chiba Tetsuya

矢吹丈は、〝殺し屋〟の異名をとる強打のボクサーだったが、宿敵の力石徹をリングで死なせたショックから、得意の必殺パンチが出せなくなってしまった。

そのうえ、対戦中に原因不明の吐き気におそわれるようになり、そのため不運な連敗をつづけて、遂にドサまわりのボクサーに転落してしまった。

折から南米ベネズエラから来日した世界六位の強豪カーロス・リベラは、後楽園で、かつて丈と対戦した南郷選手と戦ったが、〝戦慄の男〟との評判を裏切る拙戦ぶりでファンを失望させた。

だが、巡業先のテレビで観戦した丈は、この戦いのうそと、リベラのかくされた恐るべき力を見抜き、異常な闘志をかきたてられてひとり上京し、リベラを訪れたのだった……。

★前巻までのあらすじ★

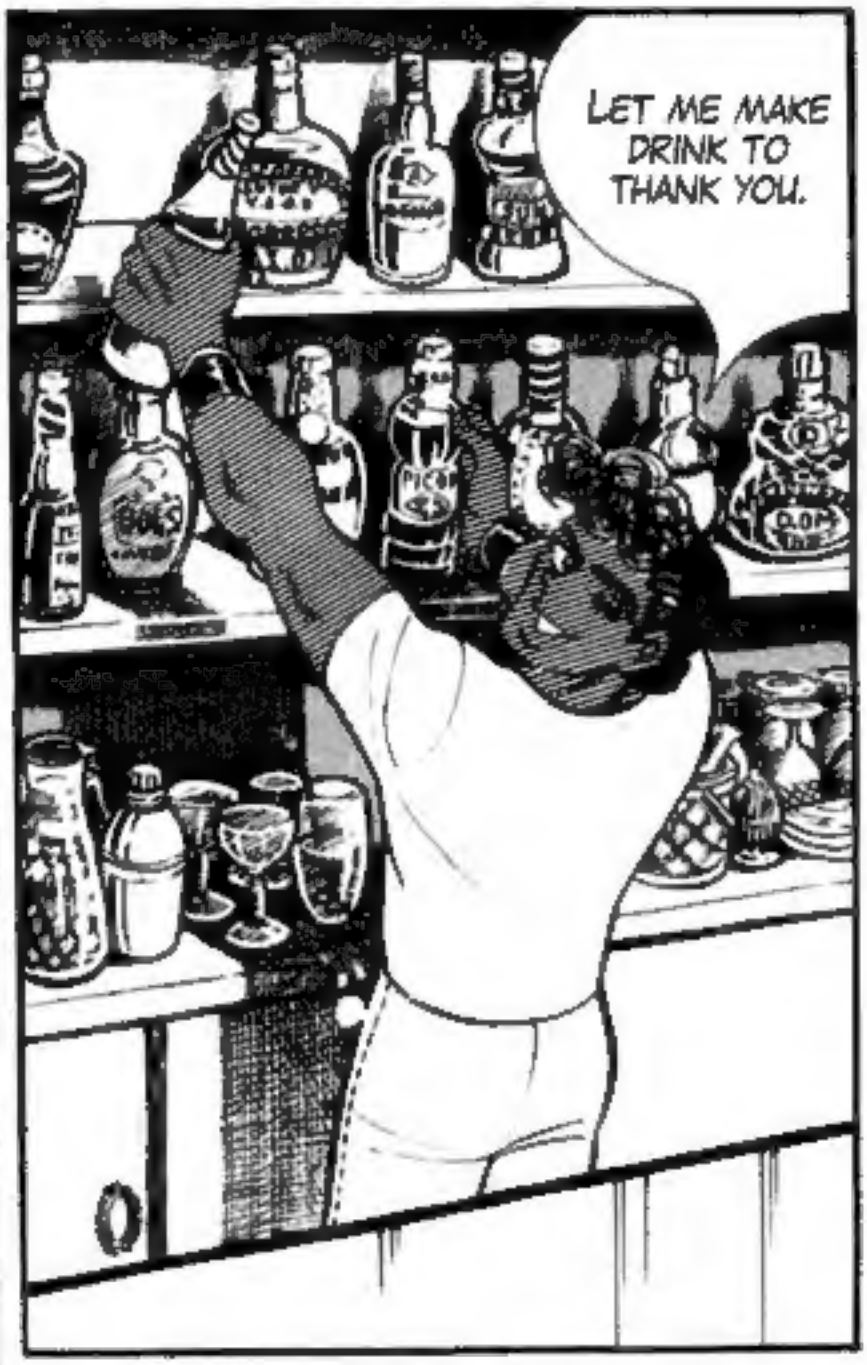
OHH, THANK YOU!
YOU'VE GOT GOOD RHYTHM.
HAHA, AND YOU'RE NOT BAD YOURSELF, CARLOS.

—9—

IT VERY, VERY NICE!
MS. YOUKO, YOUR DANCING SENSE WONDERFUL!

I'M BEAT!
WHEW,

—8—


LET ME MAKE DRINK TO THANK YOU.

A ZESTY COCKTAIL TO GIVE TASTE OF SOUTH AMERICA!

EVEN IF HE'S NO MATCH FOR YOU, YOU CAN'T JUST DANCE AND DRINK ALL DAY NOW.
CARLOS, YOUR FIGHT WITH HARAJIMA'S GETTING CLOSE.

A STRANGE MAN JUST BARGED INSIDE, SAYING THAT HE HAD TO TALK WITH YOU NO MATTER WHAT...

EXCUSE ME, MISS.

I TRIED TO CHASE HIM AWAY BUT HE REFUSES TO LEAVE.

YES, HE WAS VERY SHABBILY DRESSED BUT HIS EYES ALONE HAD AN UNUSUAL SHARP GLINT...

A STRANGE MAN?

N-NO! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO SEE A MAN LIKE THAT ALONE!

ALRIGHT, I'LL GO SEE HIM.

I TRIED ASKING BUT HE WOULDN'T TELL ME.

WELL, UMM...

WHAT'S HIS NAME?

I'M SURE THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY NO MATTER HOW BRUTISH THIS STRANGER MAY BE.

DON'T WORRY, I HAVE TWO TOUGH BODY GUARDS WORKING HERE TONIGHT.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE...

THE LAST TIME WE MET WAS AT SOME NIGHTCLUB IN ROPPONGI, I THINK.

YABUKI ...

I... I HEARD RUMOURS,

THAT YOU WERE TRAVELLING AROUND THE COUNTRY AS PART OF SOME UNLICENSED BOXING GROUP...

DURING MY FIGHT WITH HARAJIMA.

NO, WAIT... I REMEMBER SEEING YOU AND TWO FOREIGNERS,

WELL,

I PLAYED A LIL' TOO ROUGH, WHICH PISSED OFF MY NEW CO-WORKERS.

SO LONG STORY SHORT, I'M OUT OF A JOB RIGHT NOW.

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, I'M REALLY DIRTY AFTER MY LONG TRIP

I'D FEEL BAD IF I CAME INSIDE AND GOT DIRT ALL OVER YOUR PRETTY LITTLE MANSION.

WHATEVER THE CASE, WE CAN'T HAVE A PROPER CONVERSATION BY JUST STANDING HERE IN THE HALLWAY

PLEASE COME INSIDE.

NO, NO. I'M FINE STANDING HERE.

...

A JOB!?

TO CUT TO THE CHASE, I CAME TO ASK FOR A JOB.

WELL...

WHAT DID YOU COME HERE TO SAY?

SO THEN..

COULD YOU. PLEASE DO THAT FOR ME?

LIKE I TOLD YOU A SECOND AGO, I'M UNEMPLOYED RIGHT NOW.

THAT'S RIGHT

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE ONCE-FAMED "KILLER JOE" IS NOW GROVELING FOR JUST A JOB. IT'S ALMOST TOO PITIFUL TO BEAR.

LOST ALL YOUR FANGS?

HAVE YOU.

I WENT TO THE SHIRAKI GYM EARLIER BUT THE GUYS THERE TOLD ME HE WAS HERE. THAT'S WHY I THEN CAME HERE.

CARLOS?

THE MAN CALLED CARLOS IS HERE, AIN'T HE?

AND NOW HE'S SCHEDULED FOR A MATCH AGAINST HARAJIMA.

IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE EVEN TIGER OZAKI CHALLENGES HIM TOO, I BET..

OH, DON'T GET ME WRONG. IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE GOT BUSINESS WITH HIM.

SO WHAT IF HE'S HERE?

IT'S JUST THAT HE RECENTLY KO'D NANGOU, RIGHT?

.....

S-SO WHAT? I DON'T SEE WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT..

IF HE'S GONNA GO UP AGAINST THOSE 3, THEN IT'D BE GREAT HAVING A SPARRING PARTNER WHO HAS EXPERIENCE FIGHTING ALL 3 OF'EM,

DON'CHA THINK?

SO IN SHORT, I WANT TO BE HIS SPARRING PARTNER.

AND WELL, I HAVE TO SAY IT'S A PERFECT FIT FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME RIGHT NOW.
IF WE WERE TALKING ABOUT DOGFIGHTING, IT'D BE THE ONE BEING BITTEN ALL THE TIME...
HAHA... "SPARRING PARTNER"... FANCY TITLE FOR SOMEONE WHOSE JOB IS TO BE A HUMAN SANDBAG, AIN'T IT?

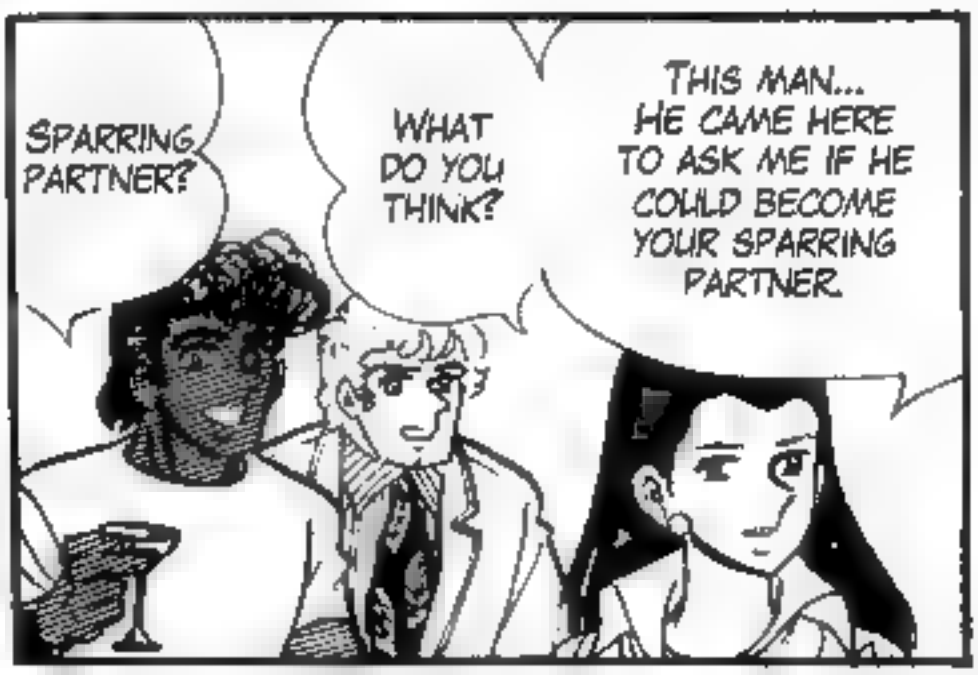
AS FRANK AND BOORISH AS EVER, AREN'T YOU...

SO EVEN THOUGH I'M THE ONE WHO'S ASKING, YOU WANT TO GIVE ME THIS JOB, DON'T YOU?
I'M SURE YOU OF ALL PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO SEE THE ONE WHO KILLED YOUR PRECIOUS RIKIISHI TO BECOME NOTHING MORE THAN A DIRTY HOBO, RIGHT?

JUST GIVE ME A YES OR NO ANSWER.
WHOA, WHOA THERE. I DIDN'T COME HERE TO ARGUE.
YOU'RE FREE TO MAKE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT ME BUT IF YOU THINK SUCH TWISTED-

YOUR SOUTH AMERICAN COCKTAIL IS READY!
WHAT'S WRONG, MS. YOUKO?
C-CARLOS..

THE WEIRD MAN! I REMEMBER YOU.
OHH! YOU JOE YABUKI!


SPARRING PARTNER?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THIS MAN... HE CAME HERE TO ASK ME IF HE COULD BECOME YOUR SPARRING PARTNER.

I SAY YOU WEIRD BECAUSE YOU VERY STRONG BOXER BUT FOUGHT VERY BAD.

OH NO, NO, NO! PLEASE NO MAD

YOU CALLIN' ME A WEIRDO. ?

WHAT THE HELL WAS UP WITH YOUR MATCH AGAINST NANGOU!?

HA! YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!

IT PISSED ME OFF TO HELL JUST WATCHING IT ON TV!

WHAT'S WRONG?

WELL?

SAY SOMETHING!

....

PLEASE COME TO SHIRAKI GYM BY NOON TOMORROW.

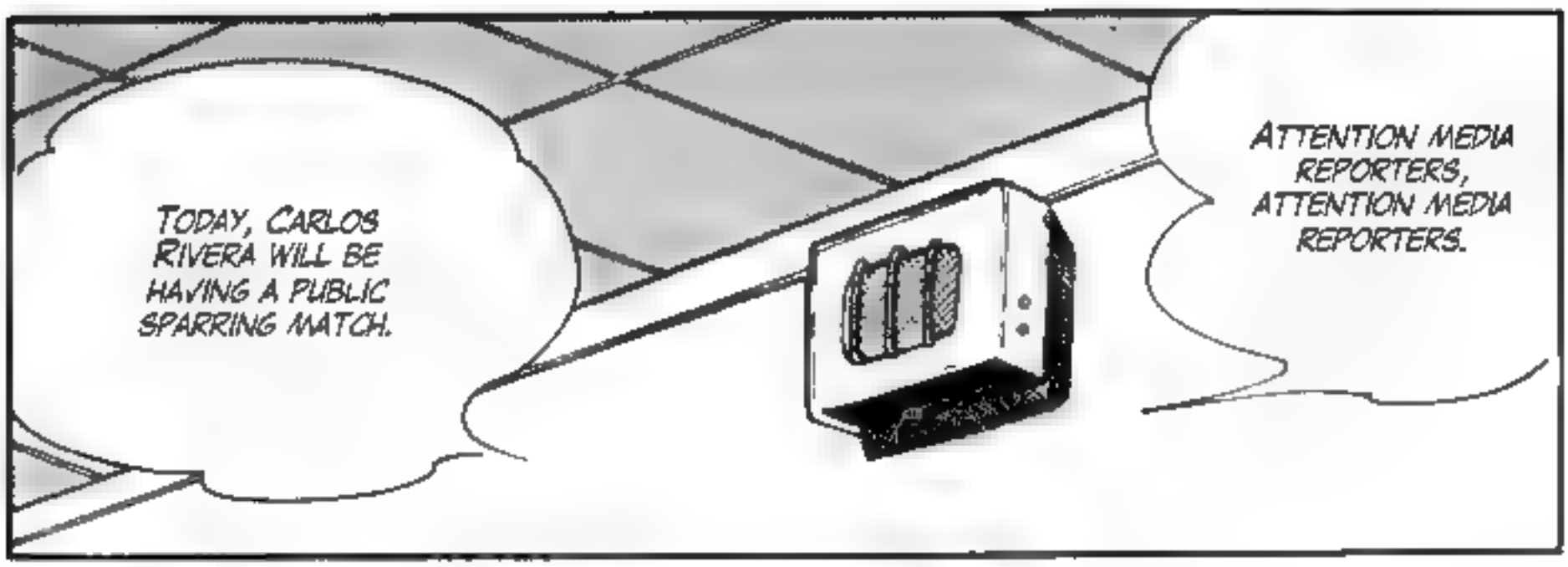
R-ROBERT!

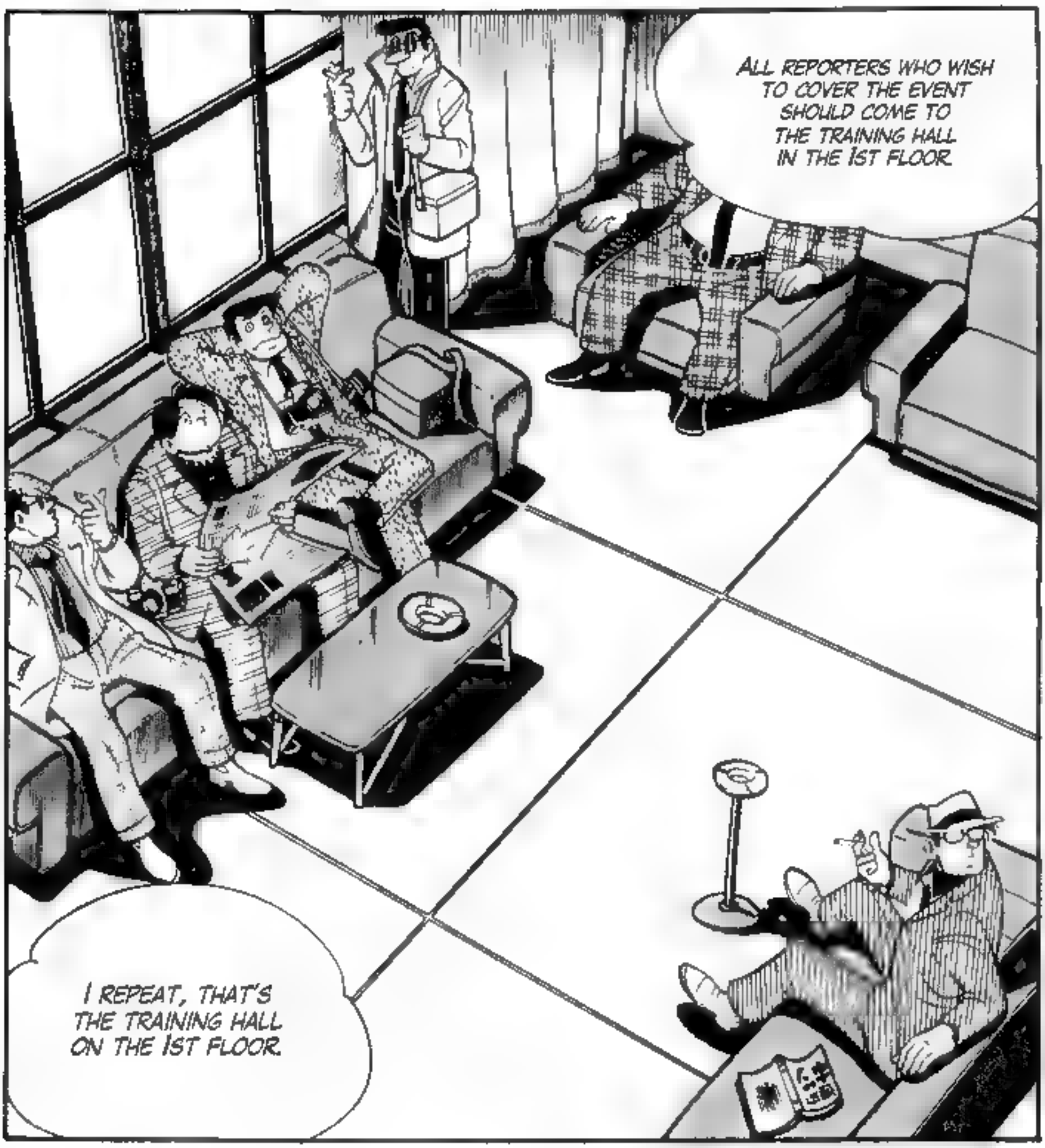
ALRIGHT, MR. YABUKI. WE ACCEPT YOUR REQUEST TO BECOME CARLOS' SPARRING PARTNER.

SEE YA TOMORROW!

THANKS A LOT, SEÑOR AND SEÑORITA.

OHH! GETTING RIGHT TO BUSINESS? I LIKE YOU.


TODAY, CARLOS RIVERA WILL BE HAVING A PUBLIC SPARRING MATCH.
ATTENTION MEDIA REPORTERS, ATTENTION MEDIA REPORTERS.


ALL REPORTERS WHO WISH TO COVER THE EVENT SHOULD COME TO THE TRAINING HALL IN THE 1ST FLOOR
I REPEAT, THAT'S THE TRAINING HALL ON THE 1ST FLOOR.

I GUESS RIVERA'S FINALLY GETTING SERIOUS AFTER HE REALIZED HE BARELY SCRAPED A WIN WITH THAT MIRACULOUS LAST-ROUND KO IN HIS LAST FIGHT.

WELL THAT'S A WELCOME CHANGE. THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE RIVERA'S MATCH WITH NANGOU.

A SPARRING MATCH?

SO HE PROBABLY WANTS TO SHOW US A GOOD SPARRING MATCH SO THAT WE CAN REPORT POSITIVELY AND RAISE HIS IMAGE AGAIN...

HIS PRESTIGE AS A WORLD-RANKER WAS TARNISHED,

A CRAFTY IDEA HATCHED BY HIS MANAGER ROBERT AND PROMOTER YOUKO, NO DOUBT.

AHH!

THIS WAY, SIRS.

ISN'T THAT... YABUKI JOE AS THE SPARRING PARTNER?
H-HEY LOOK..
I HEARD RUMOURS THAT HE WAS WANDERING FROM ONE UNLICENSED RING TO ANOTHER...
SBC

HERE'S YOUR GLOVES, YABUKI.

TALK ABOUT PITIFUL.

TO THINK THE MAN WHO KILLED SHIRAKI GYM'S ACE IS NOW THEIR HUMAN SANDBAG...

I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE GLOVES.

THIS ISN'T BABY-BOXING! GET THESE KID-GLOVES OFFA ME!

HEY! WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THESE RIDICULOUSLY HUGE GLOVES?

SBC

SBC

WE DON'T HAVE TIME. PLEASE KEEP STILL WHILE WE TIE YOUR GLOVES.

I CAN UNDERSTAND NOT GIVING ME 6 OZ. GLOVES SINCE THOSE ARE FOR ACTUAL MATCHES, BUT FOR GOD'S SAKE, AT LEAST GIVE ME 10 OUNCERS!

THESE LOOK LIKE 16 OUNCERS!

WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO THAT FOR!?

S.S

W-

WHAT DID YOU SAY ?

YOU'RE NOT THE SAME YABUKI JOE IN HIS PRIME. YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT YOUR OWN HEALTH A LITTLE BIT MORE.

AS FRIENDLY AS CARLOS USUALLY IS, HE MIGHT UNEXPECTEDLY GET SERIOUS IN A SPAR, YOU KNOW.

H-HEY! STOP THAT!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?

YOU BITCH! HOW THE HELL CAN I HAVE A MAN'S DUEL WITH THESE OVERSIZED PILLOWS ON MY HANDS!?

OH?

A DUEL?

YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE FOR A TEMP WORKER!

HEE HEE!

PFFT.

DID YOU HEAR THAT, ROBERT? A MAN'S DUEL, HE SAID!

CARLOS!

AHAHAHAHA!

HAHA HA!

GOOD, NOW STAY STILL!

HERE'S YOUR MOUTHGUARD.

.....

ALL THAT BOASTING IS JUST MAKING HIM LOOK EVEN MORE PITIFUL, IF YOU ASK ME.

THAT'S SOME TALK COMIN' FROM A GUY HIRED TO BE BASICALLY JUST A HUMAN SANDBAG...

H-HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

TODAY'S SHAPING UP TO BE QUITE THE BUSY DAY FOR SCOOPS.

LOOK WHO'S HERE NOW. IT'S THE OWNER OF TANGE GYM!

STOP THIS SPAR RIGHT NOW!

AHH!

WHAT'RE YOU HERE FOR?

ARE YOU OUTTA YOUR MIND!? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE GETTIN' INTO!?

J-JOE.. ARE YOU.

I'M WORKED UP ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF YOU BECOMING CRIPPLED, YOU IDIOT!

WHAT'RE YOU SO WORKED UP ABOUT?

I WON'T ALLOW IT!

YOU'RE NOT SPARRING!

NOW LET'S GO HOME THIS INSTANT!

W-W-WHA...?

DON'T YOU REALIZE CARLOS RIVERA'S THE MOST DANGEROUS BOXER YOU COULD COME ACROSS!?

OR DID KNOCKING OUT A COUPLE OF AMATEURS IN YOUR LIL' PEE-WEE RING OVERINFLATE YOUR EGO SO MUCH THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN THINK STRAIGHT!?

K..

LET GO OF ME, YOU SENILE FART!

YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO.

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT YOU CAME TO GIVE ME A WARM WELCOME,

SOMEONE TAKE HIM AWAY FROM HERE!

JOE, NO WAIT...

MR. TANGE.

JOE...

IT'D BE AKIN TO A KENDO DUEL FOUGHT WITH BAMBOO SWORDS.

BUT REST ASSURED, THE FIGHTERS WILL BE SPARRING WITH 16oz. GLOVES.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS,

QUIET! YOU THINK A WOMAN COULD HOPE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S AT STAKE HERE!?

SO YOU SEE, THERE'S NO REASON TO BE W-

LIM. . E-EXCUSE ME, MA'AM.

. . . .

I ACCIDENTALLY SAID SOMETHING QUITE RUDE IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT...

WHY I'M CALLING CARLOS DANGEROUS,

THE REASON,

AND WHILE I'M AT IT, LISTEN UP, YOU REPORTERS.

EVEN IN A DUEL WITH BAMBOO SWORDS, IT'S STILL POSSIBLE THAT A SERIOUS BLOW TO THE HEAD CAN STILL LEAD TO SEVERE INJURIES, IF NOT DEATH.

BUT IN ANY CASE,

I'M SCARED 'CAUSE OF MY INSTINCTS!

OR EVEN THE FACT THAT HE MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN SHOWING HIS REAL SKILLS DURING HIS FIGHT WITH NANGOU.

ISN'T THE FACT THAT HE'S A WORLD-RANKED BOXER,

AND RIGHT NOW, MY INSTINCTS TELL ME TO BE TERRIFIED...

THAT REVEALED JOE'S POTENTIAL TO ME WHEN I FIRST MET HIM.

IT WAS INSTINCT,

SURE IT MIGHT NOT HAVE A SOUND BASIS IN LOGIC, BUT IF YOU'VE LIVED, TRAINED, AND BREATHED BOXING AS LONG AS I HAVE, YOU'LL KNOW THAT FOLLOWING YOUR INSTINCTS IS YOUR BEST BET!

TERRIFIED BY THAT SEEMINGLY HAPPY-GO-LUCKY BOXER CALLED CARLOS RIVERA!

THAT'S ENOUGH!

NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME.

I'M SICK OF YOUR SENSELESS SENILE CHATTER!

I DIDN'T ASK TO BECOME RIVERA'S SPARRING PARTNER JUST OUT OF SIMPLE CURIOSITY.

SO STOP INTERFERING WHEN A PERSON'S ABOUT TO EMBARK UPON A JOURNEY TO THE NEXT PHASE OF HIS LIFE...!

I'VE THOUGHT OVER THIS SERIOUSLY IN MY OWN WAY.

ALRIGHT THEN,

LET'S GET STARTED ALREADY.

NEXT PHASE...?

HAHAHA!

PFFT..

CARLOS..

AHAHA-HAHA!

AHAHA-HAHA!

R-RING THE BELL.

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

YOU PEOPLE SO STRANGE! AHAHAHA!

THIS IS JUST SPARRING MATCH, NO? BUT JOE AND OLD MAN LIKE ACTORS IN SHAKESPEARE TRAGEDY!

AHAHA... HAHA...

H-HOLD ON.. HAHA... HOLD ON A SEC..

WHY WHY YOU JAPANESE SO DRAMATIC? YOU SO QUICKLY GO ANGRY OR SAD

. . . .

. . . .

. . . .

SO SORRY BUT GIVE MINUTE ME TO READY.

OKAY, OKAY.

THAT'S ENOUGH!

CARLOS!

PFFT... HAHAHA ...

RING THE BELL!

HAHAHA!

AHA..

HOHO...

JUST RING THE BELL ALREADY!

AHAHA... HAHA.

HEE HEE HEE!

J-JOE..

HEH.

HEH HEH...

WHOA!

NGH!

AHAHAHA!

HEE HEE HEE!

YOU SO SERIOUS!

OH, THOSE EYES.

LOO

LOO LOO

FORGIVE ME, MISTER!

GO AHEAD AND LAUGH..

AHAHAHA!

OH NOOO, I BE KILLED!

WHEN I FINALLY GOT MY CHANCE!

I'M NOT GONNA BE THROWN OFF BY YOUR LITTLE TAUNTS,

AWAKE OR ASLEEP

THE CHANCE TO FIGHT AGAINST THE MAN ON MY MIND NIGHT AND DAY,

EVEN IF I AM FIGHTING WITH PILLOWS FOR GLOVES...

I'LL SHOW YOU IN TIME,

JUST YOU WATCH..

J-JOE..

THAT THESE GLOVES CAN STILL PACK A PUNCH!

NONE OF JOE'S PUNCHES ARE COMING EVEN CLOSE TO HITTIN' HIM.

LOOK,

. . . .

YEAH, YABUKI'S REALLY GONE DOWNHILL IF HE CAN'T EVEN LAND A PUNCH ON THAT OVERRATED RIVERA.

ANYBODY COULD SEE THAT HE WOULD'VE LOST AGAINST NANGOU IF NOT FOR THAT LUCKY LAST-MINUTE PUNCH.

I MEAN, SURE, RIVERA'S THE 6TH RANKED BOXER IN THE WORLD, BUT YOU ALL SAW WHAT HE'S REALLY LIKE.

HA..

ROUND 1 IS OVER!

S-STOP!

HAHA...

GO BACK TO YOUR CORNER!

AHAHAHAHA!

HEE HEE HEE.

THAT'S ENOUGH WILDLY SWINGING ABOUT.

YOU IDIOT,

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

STOP RAMBLING.

YOUR FORM'S GOTTA BE COMPACT SO GET CLOSE AND-

HE CAN SEE YOUR PUNCHES COMING A MILE AWAY IF YOU KEEP SWINGING THAT WIDELY

COMPACT, PRECISE JABS AREN'T GONNA DO JACK WHEN I HAVE THESE PILLOWBAGS AROUND MY FISTS.

USE YOUR HEAD, YA DUMBASS!

AFTER SEEING THAT FIRST ROUND, I'M FINDING IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT YOU WERE EVER NICKNAMED "KILLER JOE!"

OR DID YOU EVEN FORGET HOW TO DO THAT?

AND WATCH THE NEXT ROUND
SO JUST KEEP QUIET,
DON'T WORRY, I'VE GOT A PLAN. THERE'S A REASON WHY I'VE BEEN SWINGING WILDLY.
IT'LL LOOK BAD IF YOU KEEP HORSING AROUND AFTER WE CALLED ALL THESE REPORTERS HERE.
FINE, FINE.
CARLOS! I WANT TO SEE SOME MORE OFFENCE IN THE NEXT ROUND!
HAHH!
HEH.
FINALLY READY TO FIGHT, ARE YOU NOW...
HAHH!

THIS IS WHAT I WAS WAITING FOR!

HAHH!

I FIGURED YOU'D PUT ON A SHOW FOR THE AUDIENCE BY FLASHING SOME IMPRESSIVE-LOOKING PUNCHES...

YAHH...

T-THAT'S...

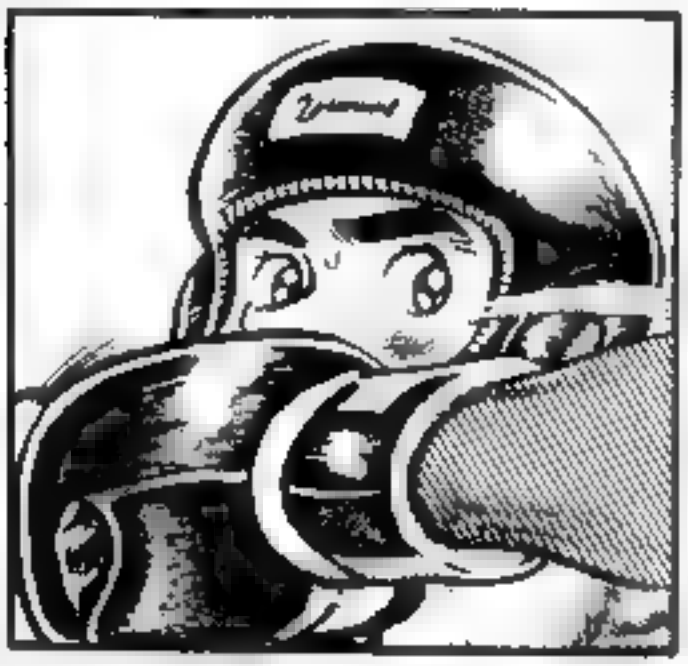
AGHHH...

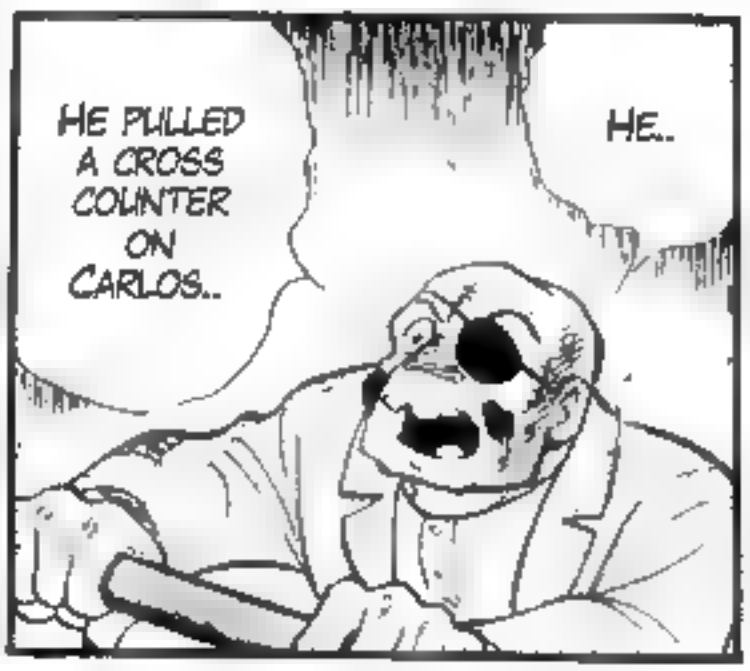
MN.

CARLOS' FACE SUDDENLY TURNED ALL SERIOUS.

DID THAT REALLY HURT HIM JUST NOW?

W-WHAT'S WRONG?




HE PULLED A CROSS COUNTER ON CARLOS..
HE..

ALL TO DELIVER A PERFECT TEMPLE-BLOW JUST LIKE HE ONCE DID TO RIKIISHI..!
AND HE COMBINED THE MOMENTUM FROM THE ROPES,

I SEE.. SO EVEN A 16oz. GLOVE COULD PACK A PUNCH WITH THAT TECHNIQUE..

FLOYD PATTERSON USED THIS TECHNIQUE TO REIGN AS THE HEAVYWEIGHT WORLD CHAMPION JUST BEFORE MUHAMMAD ALI'S ERA AS CHAMPION.

WHEN YOU PUSH OFF FROM THE ROPES AND LEAD IN WITH YOUR FIST, YOUR ENTIRE WEIGHT WILL BE BEHIND YOUR PUNCH..

YES,

IT'S BECAUSE THAT WAS A KANGAROO PUNCH.

I THINK THAT REALLY DID HURT HIM JUST NOW...

THAT PUNCH JUST COMPLETELY WIPED CARLOS' SMILE OFF...

WHOA...

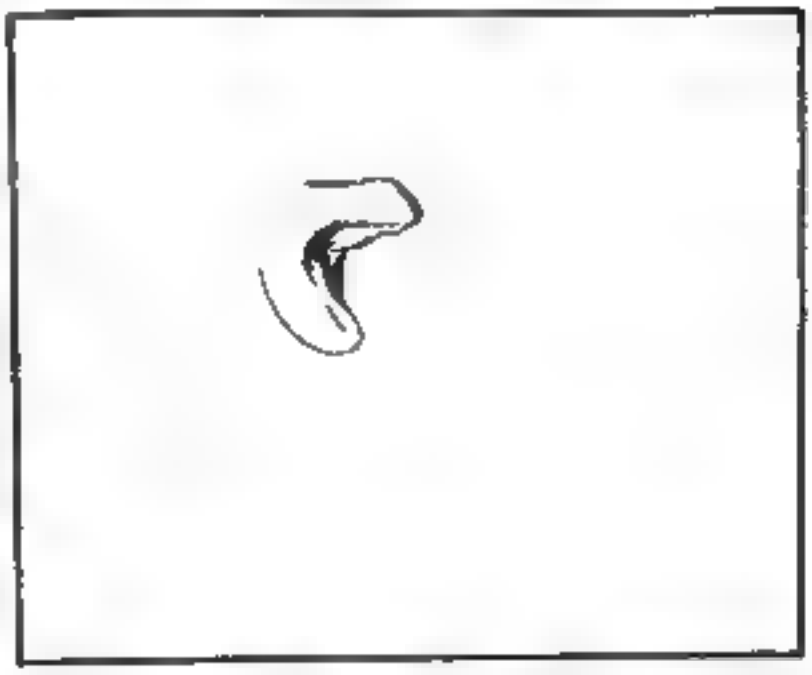
THIS IS GETTIN' INTERESTING.
SEEMS LIKE THE ONCE-FAMED "KILLER JOE" HAS STILL GOT SOME FIGHT LEFT IN HIM...

HEH.

HA.

HEH HEH HEH.

HAHA.
.....



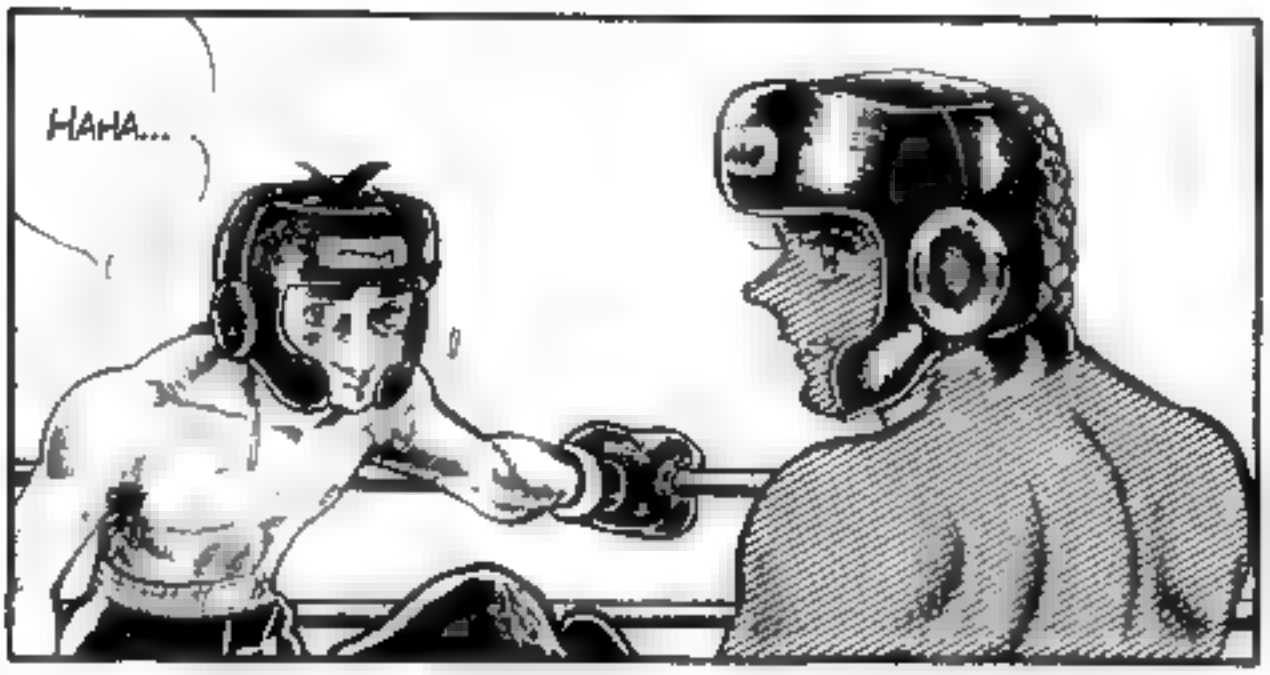
OHHHHH!

WHOA..

HOLY MOLY..

J-JOE!

HEE HEE...


HAHA...

I'M HAPPY NONETHE-LESS.
EVEN IF THAT WAS ONLY A LITTLE TASTE,

YOU LET ME SEE THE REAL YOU...
FINALLY,

.....
THAT EVEN MY DREAMS ARE ABOUT YOU.
I'VE WANTED TO EXPERIENCE IT FIRSTHAND SO MUCH,
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN DYIN' TO SEE...

HEH HEH.

SAY SOMETHING! C'MON!

NGHH...

NO, JOE! STOP!

N-

OOF!

I WON'T ALLOW THIS FIGHT TO CONTINUE EVEN A SECOND LONGER!
STOP!
THAT'S ENOUGH!
S-STOP!

GET OUTTA THE RING, DANPEI!

HEY YOU'RE IN THE WAY!

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? THINGS WERE JUST GETTIN' INTERESTING...

I'M AFRAID CARLOS HAS GOTTEN SERIOUS.

M-MISS YOUKO.

I AGREE COMPLETELY. THIS SPAR MUST BE STOPPED AT ONCE.

RIGHT..

WE HAVE TO STOP THE FIGHT RIGHT AWAY.

NOT ONLY THAT, THE REPORTERS WILL ALL REALIZE JUST HOW STRONG CARLOS REALLY IS.

IF WE LET THIS FIGHT CONTINUE, JOE YABUKI MIGHT BECOME GRAVELY INJURED

SO LET'S CALL IT A DAY FOR NOW!

CARLOS! YOUR MATCH AGAINST HARAJIMA'S ONLY 5 DAYS AWAY AND FIGHTING AN UNORTHODOX BOXER LIKE HIM IS ONLY GOING TO THROW YOU OFF.

SEE YOU AT THE MATCH THEN!

SORRY ABOUT EVERYTHING.

THANKS FOR UNDERSTANDING.

WELL, THAT'S HOW IT IS, FOLKS. I KNOW WE WERE THE ONES WHO CALLED YOU OVER BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE NOW.

H-HEY, STOP SHOVING.

WAIT WHAT? HE'S KICKING US OUT ALREADY?

IS THAT IT FOR THE SPAR?

I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO TAKE ONE PHOTO!

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO WRITE AN ARTICLE NOW?

SORRY MY ASS. THEY JUST THREW US OUTTA THERE.

ARE THEY SERIOUS? FOR GOD'S SAKE...

KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'?

WHERE IF THE SKILL DIFFERENCE IS TOO MUCH, NEITHER SIDE IS REALLY GONNA BENEFIT FROM PLAYING.

IT'S KINDA LIKE HOW IN CHESS,

WELL, I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.

THROW HIM OFF?

I SUPPOSE, BUT JUDGING BY HOW CARLOS TOOK JOE'S KANGAROO PUNCH, I'M NOT SURE IF THE SKILL DIFFERENCE WAS REALLY THAT BIG...

NO WAY! C'MON, THIS IS STILL THE 6TH RANKED BOXER IN THE WORLD WE'RE TALKIN' ABOUT!

SBC

YOU DON'T THINK THEY STOPPED THE MATCH ALL OF A SUDDEN BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID JOE MIGHT BEAT CARLOS, DO YOU?

HEY YOU NEVER KNOW. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN EVEN A NOBODY CAN LUCK OUT TO THE WORLD RANKINGS. HAHAHA!

GO HIT THE SHOWERS AND COOL OFF.
CARLOS,
COME ON THEN!

JOE!

ドズン

JOE, YOU SHOULD GO AND GET CHANGED T-

ガラッ

NEVER BEEN HIT LIKE THAT BEFORE...

I'M.. EXHAUS-TED..

W-WHAT'S WRONG!?

BUT THAT BASTARD SLIPPED IN AN ELBOW ALONG WITH HIS PUNCHES.

EVEN IF HE IS A STRONG HITTER, I WOULDN'T NORMALLY GO DOWN THIS EASILY WHEN WE BOTH HAVE 16oz. GLOVES.

EH, YOU-KO?

THAT'S SOME BOXER YOU'VE INVITED OVER FROM SOUTH AMERICA,

AHHH! THAT WOUND...

L-LET ME TAKE OFF YOUR HEADGEAR!

AN ELBOW?

IN A WAY, IT'S QUITE A DIFFICULT INFRACTION TO PULL OFF IF INTENTIONAL...

W-WELL, EVEN IF SUCH A THING *DID* HAPPEN, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW FOR SURE WHETHER THAT ELBOW WAS INTENTIONAL OR ACCIDENTAL WHEN BLOWS ARE TRADED AT A FURIOUS PACE.

...

AHAHAHA! THOSE'RE SOME SLICK WORDS!

BADGE OF HONOUR?

IN FACT, I'D EVEN GO SO FAR AS TO CALL HIS ELBOW A BADGE OF HONOUR!

WELL, WHATEVER. I ALREADY KNEW ALL ABOUT THAT HABIT OF HIS.

JOE...

DID YOU HEAR THAT? AHAHAHA, MY SIDES...

HERE'S YOUR FEE FOR YOUR WORK AS THE SPARRING PARTNER.

FELT THREATENED ENOUGH BY ME TO SLIP IN AN ELBOW. THE SAME GUY WHO CAN KEEP THE LIKES OF NANGOU DANCING ON HIS PALM FOR 9 WHOLE ROUNDS ACKNOWLEDGED ME AS A DANGEROUS OPPONENT.

A WORLD-RANKING BOXER WHOSE POTENTIAL I STILL CAN'T MEASURE,

WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

CARLOS RIVERA VS HARAJIMA RYUU.

I KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT SO I DECIDED TO PAY YOU IN TICKETS.

DANPEI, LET'S GO HOME.

I DON'T NEED ANY MONEY. IN FACT, I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD BE PAYING YOU.

.....

YOU MIGHT EVEN GAIN A MORE PROFOUND RESPECT AT YOUR NEW BADGE OF HONOUR..

AT THAT MATCH,

ルーキーパワー
必勝原島君
がんば!!
原島後援会

天王寺

TIGER OZAKI'S COME TO WATCH THE FIGHT...
LOOK,
YEAH..

SBC
SBC

JUST BEFORE THE MATCH, HARAJIMA CONFIDENTLY STATED THAT HE'D TAKE THE GRAND PRIZE WHICH JUST BARELY SLIPPED THROUGH NANGOU'S FINGERS LAST TIME.
TONIGHT'S MATCH WILL BE BETWEEN CARLOS RIVERA, THE 6TH RANKED BANTAMWEIGHT IN THE WORLD IN THE WORLD, AND HARAJIMA RYUU, WHO STANDS AT NUMBER 1 IN JAPAN!

WE'RE ALL ROOTIN' FOR YA, HARAJIMA!
GO HARAJIMA, GO!
必勝
原島龍後

A GOLDEN CHANCE LIKE THIS DOESN'T COME EVERYDAY...
LISTEN UP, HARAJIMA...

ALRIGHT!?
WITH YOUR SKILLS, YOU'LL KNOCK HIM FLAT, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET HIT BY THE SAME LUCKY PUNCH THAT NANGOU GOT.
YEAH, I HEAR YOU LOUD AND CLEAR.

I'LL STEP UP WHERE NANGOU FAILED AND COME UP TO THE VERY TOP!

AS THEY SAY, ONE MAN'S MISFORTUNE IS ANOTHER MAN'S OPPORTUNITY.

BUT I HEAR HE RECENTLY GOT CLOBBERED DURING A PUBLIC SPARRING SESSION WITH THAT WASHED-UP LOSER YABUKI JOE!

HEH HEH... Y'KNOW, I THOUGHT RIVERA MIGHT'VE JUST HAD SOME JETLAG-INDUCED OFF-DAY DURING HIS FIGHT AGAINST NANGOU,

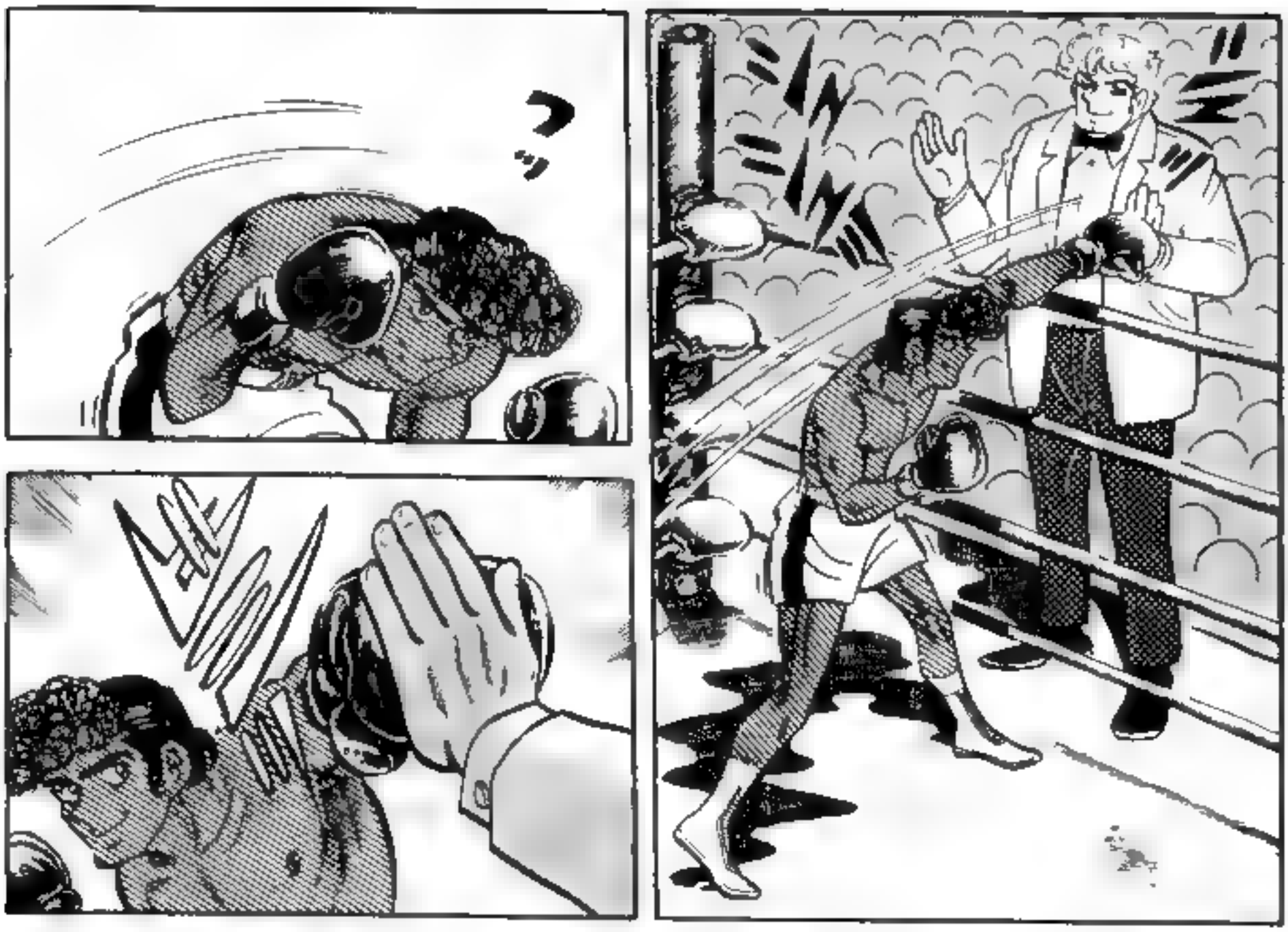
II CAN NOW SEE HIM FOR WHO HE REALLY IS.

HEH HEH.

THANKS.

YOU CAN DO IT!

WE'RE ALL CHEERIN' FOR YA, HARAJIMA!



MAKE SURE TO WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE 4TH ROUND.
DON'T GET ANTSY, CARLOS.
ドン
SAVE IT UNTIL THE ROUND THAT THESE JAPANESE HATE SO MUCH.
I KNOW, I KNOW..

TL NOTE: 4 CAN BE READ THE SAME WAY AS "DEATH" IN JAPANESE

ALRIGHT, GO GET 'IM!

C'MON! GET RIGHT UP IN HIS FACE AND SHOW HIM WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF!

NO NEED TO BE CAUTIOUS! YOU SAW FOR YOURSELF HOW "STRONG" HE REALLY IS IN HIS MATCH WITH NANGOU!

LET'S GO, HARAJIMA!

HEH HEH.

DON'T LET UP THE PRESSURE!

YOU'RE THE MAN!

THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT!

RIGHT

WHOA-

NGH-

TAKE THIS!

ARE YOU KIDDIN' ME...

AGHH-

MOVE YOUR FEET! MOVE YOUR FEET!

OH NO, CARLOS!

DON'T FOLLOW HIM IN TOO DEEP!

DON'T GET TOO COCKY, HARAJIMA!

THIS LAME-O'S SERIOUSLY 6TH IN THE WORLD?

IT'D BE MORE CHALLENGING TO FIGHT A ROOKIE THAT STILL ONLY FIGHTS 4-ROUND MATCHES!

WHEW

LET MY GUARD DOWN FOR A SEC THERE...

AH-

BUT I CAN'T LET HIM OFF THE HOOK TOO EASILY EITHER..

HEH HEH.

I WOULDN'T WANT A REPEAT OF NANGOU'S PERFORMANCE NOW...

DAMN JAP
HAHA, EASY THERE..

WITH THOSE FOOTWORK SKILLS, IT'S NOT SURPRISING TO HEAR HE EVEN HAD SUCH A TERRIBLE SPARRING SESSION AGAINST YABUKI JOE, WHOSE GLORY DAYS ARE LONG GONE...

YES, QUITE A SHAME...

OH MY, NOTHING'S WORKING OUT FOR RIVERA, IS IT..

ROUND 2,

BEGIN!

PFFT.

ATTA BOY, HARAJIMA!

SHOW HIM HOW TOUGH THE JAPANESE BOXING WORLD IS!

CAN'T BE CALLED "LUCKY" IF IT HAPPENS OVER AND OVER AGAIN..

EVEN A LUCKY PUNCH,

HIS MANAGER ROBERT,

I WONDER HOW CARLOS,

HOW'RE THEY GOING TO WIN THIS MATCH WHILE HIDING CARLOS' TRUE SKILLS SO TIGER OZAKI WON'T BE AFRAID TO CHALLENGE HIM...?

ARE GOING TO FINISH OFF HARAJIMA?

AND YOUKO, WHO'S PULLING THE STRINGS BEHIND-THE-SCENES,

JUST LIKE HIS POOR PERFORMANCE AGAINST NANGOU, RIVERA IS RELENTLESSLY BEING PUMMELED BY HARAJIMA IN THESE FIRST TWO ROUNDS!

HIS ARMS ARE LOOKING DEAD TOO!

RIVERA'S LEGS HAVE GIVEN IN!

HEH HEH.

STOP, THE BELL JUST RANG!

ホゥ…!

C-CALM DOWN...

WHAT THE HELL!

YOU HIT ME AFTER THE BELL, YOU BASTARD!

HA...

AHAHA.

HAHAHA!

TALK ABOUT A PATHETIC WORLD-RANKER!

AHAHA-HA!

. . . .

HUH.

DOES THAT LATINO EVEN WANT TO FIGHT!?

YOU SAID IT.

IS IT JUST ME... OR IS THIS FIGHT REALLY ANNOYING TO WATCH?

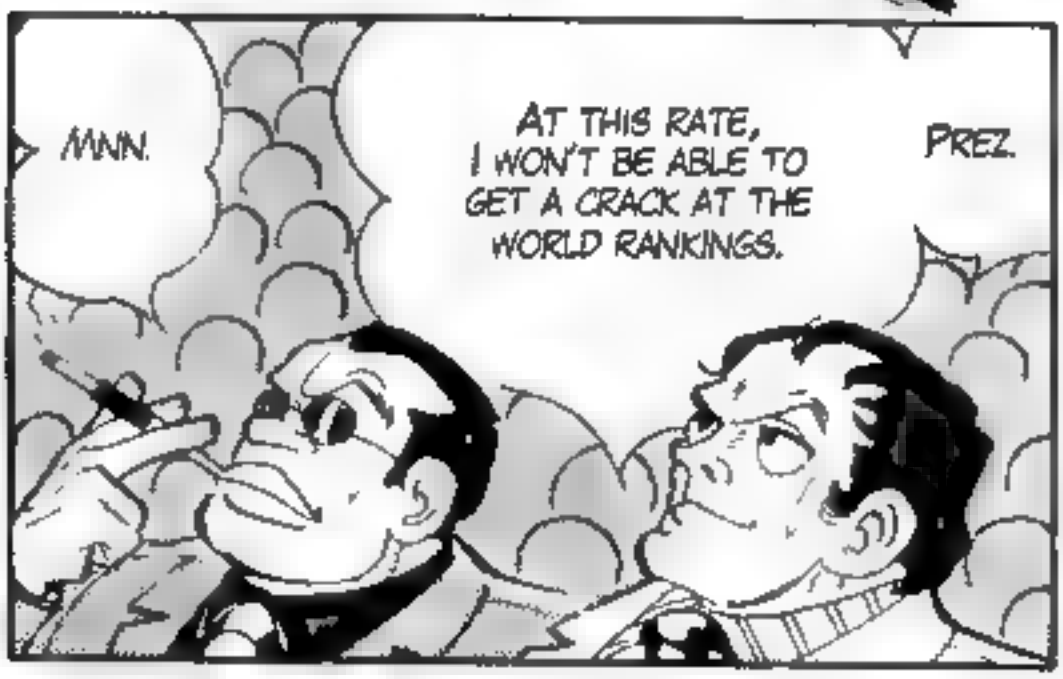
YOU CALL YOURSELF A WORLD-RANKING BOXER WITH THOSE PISS-POOR SKILLS!?

START FIGHTIN' SERIOUSLY OR ELSE!

HEY YOU!

INDEED..
WELL... JUDGING BY THE CROWD'S REACTION, IT'S A REAL MYSTERY HOW RIVERA EVER EARNED HIMSELF NICKNAMES SUCH AS THE "UNCROWNED EMPEROR" OR "VENEZUELA'S TERROR"...

WHEN INCOMPETENT SCOUTS BRING OVER ANY FOREIGNER WHO'S MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF, WITH NO REGARD TO THEIR ACTUAL SKILLS!
THIS IS JUST LIKE IN BASEBALL,


MNN.
AT THIS RATE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET A CRACK AT THE WORLD RANKINGS.
PREZ.

GUESS IT WAS MY FAULT FOR BEING OVERLY CAUTIOUS ABOUT HIS LUCKY PUNCH KO AGAINST NANGOU..
IF I'D KNOWN HE'D BE THIS BAD, I WOULD'VE HAD HIM FIGHT YOU NEXT.

RIVERA, YOU SUCK!
YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE GETTING PAID EITHER WAY!?
I WANT MY MONEY BACK!

ドカドカ
A CHANCE FOR THE WORLD RANKINGS...
DAMN, IF ONLY WE HADN'T LET IT SLIP THROUGH OUR FINGERS...
CARLOS!
YOU KNOW WHEN TO ACT, RIGHT?
CARLOS, IT'S TIME FOR THE 4TH ROUND.
GET HIM A NEW TOWEL! QUICKLY!
GOTCHA
WILL BE ME WHISTLING..
THE SIGNAL,
WHAT WAS THE SIGNAL AGAIN?
RIGHT AT THE CLOSING SECONDS OF THE 4TH ROUND..

HE PUTS HIS WHOLE BODY IN A STRAIGHT-FORWARD PUNCH!

HARAJIMA'S NOT EVEN FEINTING ANYMORE!

WELL, AS LONG AS THEY'RE HITTING THEIR MARK, I SEE NO REASON WHY HARAJIMA SHOULD CHANGE HIS TACTICS.

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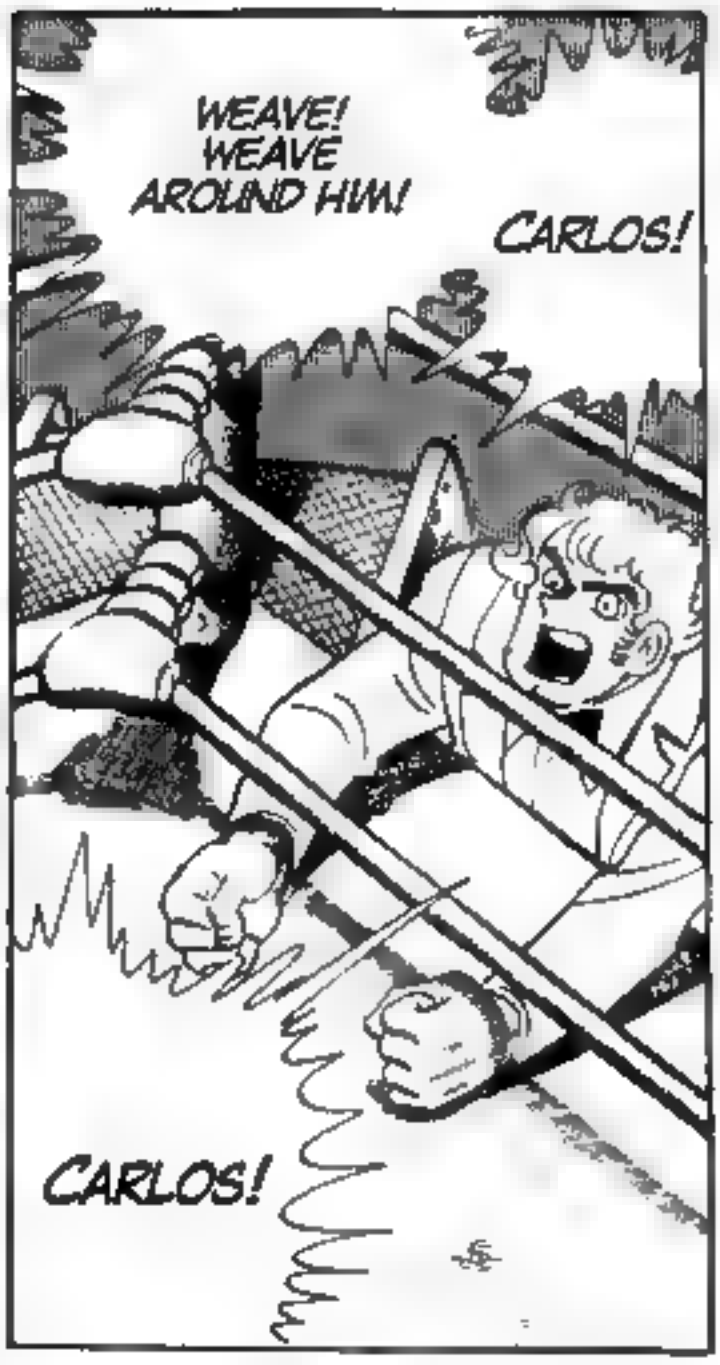
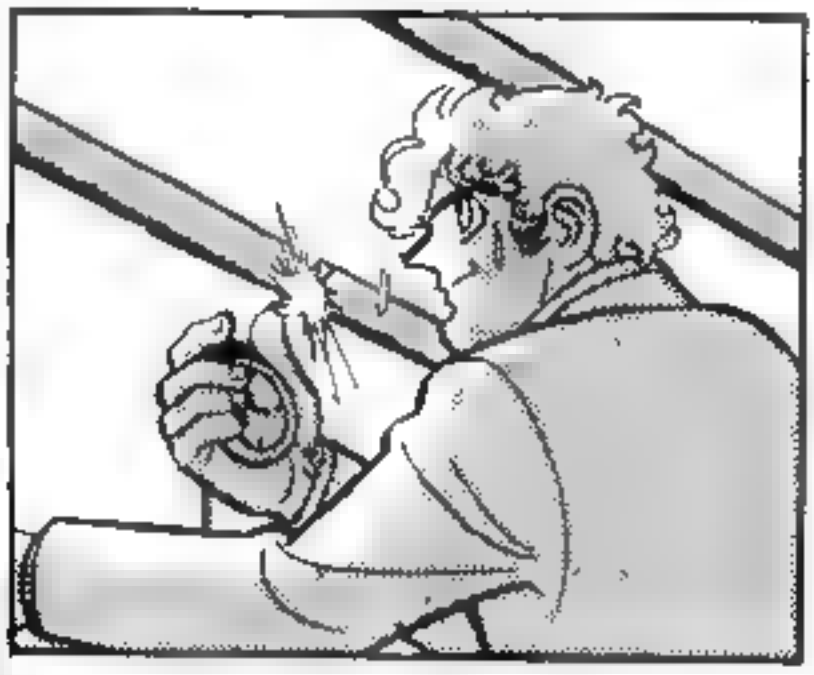
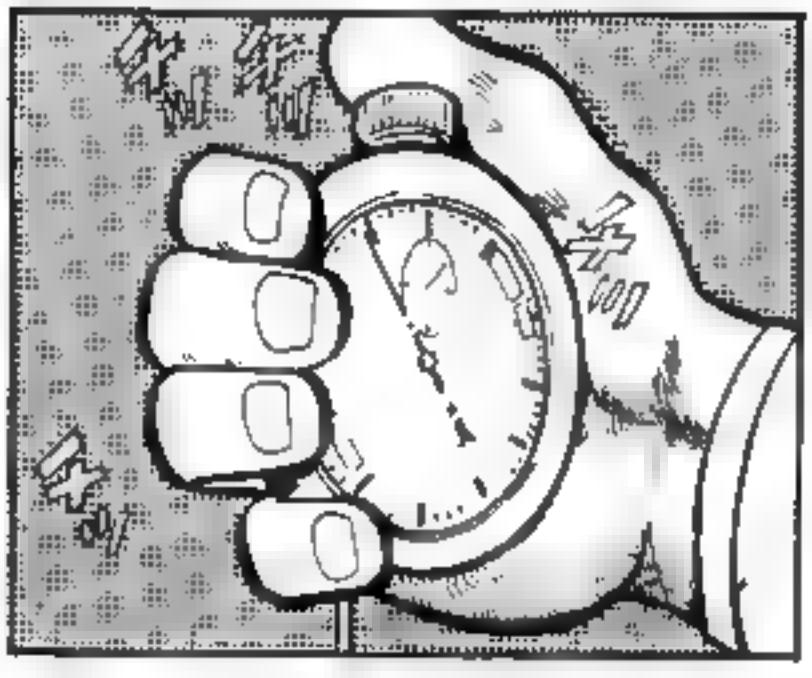

WEAVE!
WEAVE
AROUND HIM!
CARLOS!
CARLOS!

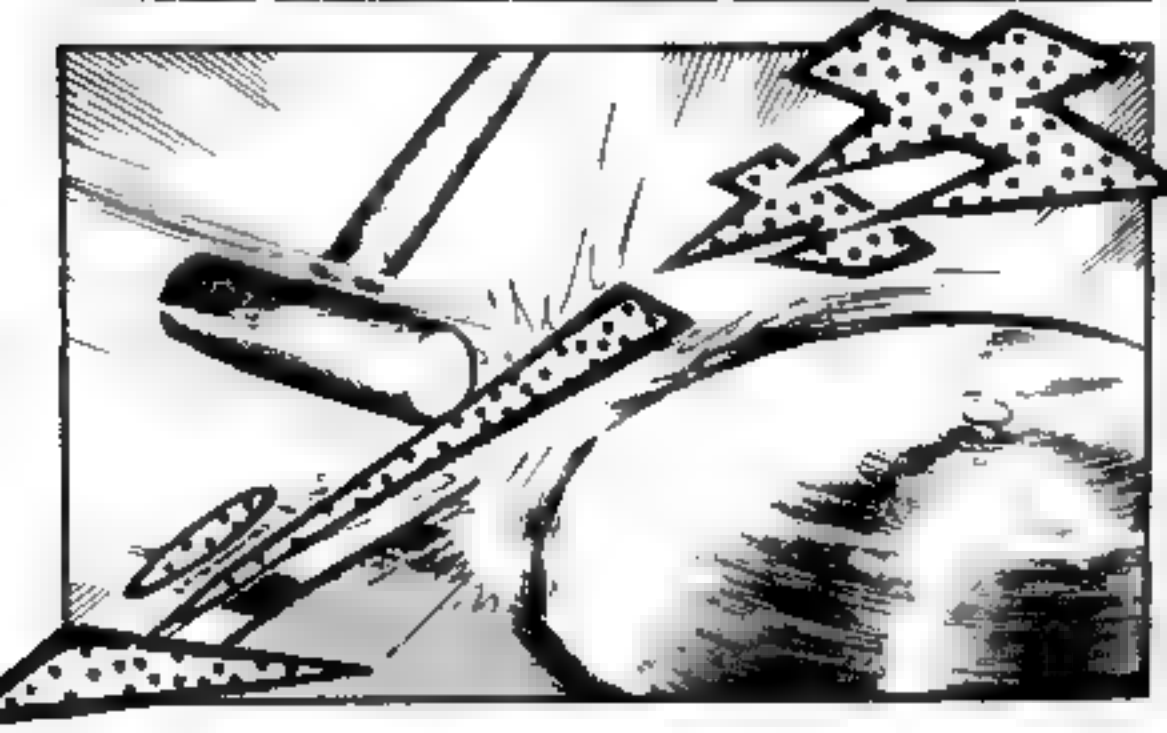
CARLOS-
OH NO,
IT'S ALL
OVER.

YAWWN...
UGH, WHAT
A BORING MATCH.





RIVERA FINALLY LANDS A RIGHT-STRAIGHT!
AH!



HERE'S YOUR CHAIR.
SIT DOWN.
THAT'S ANOTHER ROUND YOU CLEARLY WON.
HEH HEH, YOU DID GOOD OUT THERE.
BUT THERE GOES THE BELL, SIGNIFYING THE END OF THE ROUND! ONCE AGAIN, HARAJIMA DOMINATED THE RING!

NOW BACK OFF!

IF HARAJIMA NEEDS ANY ADVICE, I'LL BE THE ONE TO GIVE IT!

I DON'T WANT A REPEAT OF NANGOU'S FIGHT.

LIKE I SAID BEFORE, STAY CAUTIOUS UNTIL THE VERY END!

IN ANY CASE, GOOD JOB!

SOMEONE'S GOTTA ENTERTAIN THE CROWD HERE TONIGHT

Y'KNOW, I THINK YOU OUGHTA BE A TAD MORE AGGRESSIVE IN THE NEXT ROUND.

STOP DISTRACTING HIM WITH UNRELATED CHATTER!

ガク

NOW LET'S RINSE OUT YOUR MOUTH.

W-WHAT'S WRONG...?

H... HARAJIMA?

HEY!

HEY, RIVERA! EVEN A DOG WAGS ITS TAIL WHEN IT RECEIVES ITS FOOD, YOU KNOW!
SO UNLESS YOU'RE WORSE THAN A DOG, SHOW US AT LEAST A MEMORABLE DEFEAT IN RETURN FOR THAT FAT PAYCHECK YOU'RE GETTING FOR THIS FIGHT!
FINISH THIS POSER OFF NEXT ROUND, HARAJIMA!
AHAHAHAHA!

ALL SECONDS OUT OF THE RING!

HELLO!? ARE YOU LISTENING!?

HEY I TOLD YOU TO STEP OUT OF THE RING!

FWEEP!

天王寺

...?

I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON. ?

OH? HARAJIMA'S COACH IS STILL INSIDE THE RING.

UMM. W-WELL, YOU SEE.

IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH HARAJIMA?

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT THE HELL DO YA THINK YER DOIN'!? THE BELL'S ALREADY RUNG!

GET OUTTA THE RING!

EXCUSE US FOR A MOMENT, RIVERA. PLEASE STAND BY AT YOUR CORNER.

SUDDENLY CRAMPED UP SO HE CAN'T STAND UP..

W-WELL.. HIS, UH... YOU SEE, HIS LEGS HAVE..

SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH HARAJIMA?

天王寺

AS YOU CAN, UHH, SEE... HE'S IN TOO MUCH TO PAIN TO EVEN TALK...

WE CAN'T CONTINUE THE MATCH LIKE THIS.

WELL, I'LL BE DAMNED

H-HE'S HAD A COUPLE CASES LIKE THIS BEFORE.

Y-YES, UNFORTUNATELY...

A CRAMP?

I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING ELSE WE CAN DO...

WELL... THOSE ARE THE RULES SO...

THE RULES STATE THAT IF A FIGHTER CAN'T COME OUT FROM HIS CORNER ONCE THE BELL RINGS, IT COUNTS AS AN AUTOMATIC KO LOSS.

CARLOS RIVERA!

OVER HERE, RIVERA.

HARAJIWA HAS FORFEITED DUE TO HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION.

D-DID I... DID I WIN!?

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME...

WOOHOO! DID YOU HEAR THAT, ROBERT!

YOU BET I DID, CARLOS!

HAHAHAHA!

WOOHOO!

WHAT HAPPENED!?

W-W-WHAT'S GOING ON?

MUMBLE MUMBLE...

AS LUCKY AS EVER, AREN'T YOU, CARLOS!? AHAHAHA!

DUE TO SUDDEN MUSCLE CRAMP IN HIS LEGS, HARAJIMA HAS FORFEITED THE MATCH, MEANING THAT TONIGHT'S FIGHT HAS ENDED AS KO WIN FOR CARLOS RIVERA.

MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION!

EZ.

OWW!

A TRULY SHOCKING TURN OF E-

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS BULLSHIT!?

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM THROWING OBJECTS ONTO THE RING!

A TERRIBLE MATCH RIGHT FROM THE START TO THE VERY END, ISN'T IT?

H-HELP..!

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT AFTER 4 WHOLE ROUNDS OF BEING A HUMAN SANDBAG, RIVERA GETS A KO WIN!?

YOU THINK YOU CAN PULL THIS CRAP ON US AND GET AWAY WITH IT!?

REFUND! REFUND! REFUND!

I WANT MY MONEY BACK!

RIVERA'S TECHNICAL SKILLS MIGHT BE WEAK BUT I DARESAY HIS LUCK IS UNMATCHED BY ANY OTHER!

FIRST, IT WAS THE LUCKY PUNCH AGAINST NANGOU, AND NOW, A RANDOM MUSCLE CRAMP HAS GIVEN RIVERA A MIRACULOUS COMEBACK WIN.

THE MISFORTUNATE HARAJIMA NOW SLINKS BACK TO THE CHANGING ROOM WITH THE HELP OF HIS SECONDS.

WHAT A SHAME...

THIS IS THE KIND OF GAME THAT A MAN COULD CRY OVER FOR A LIFE-TIME, ISN'T IT?

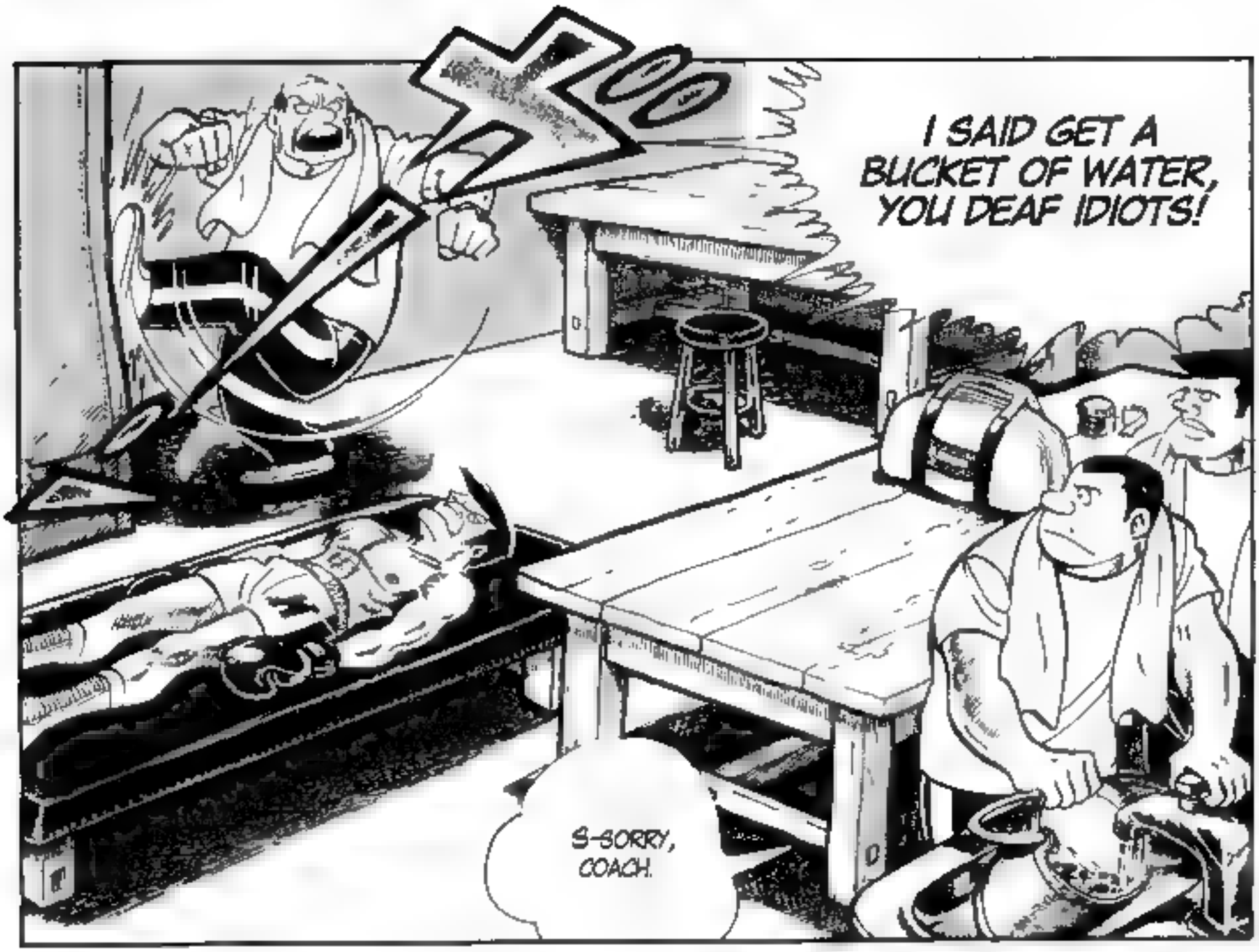
THAT WAS QUITE THE UNFORTUNATE TURN OF EVENTS.

COULD YOU PLEASE SHARE US YOUR FEELINGS ON THIS MATTER?

S-SORRY, BUT NOT NOW.

SHOW SOME SYMPATHY!
REPORTERS, PLEASE!

OR ELSE HIS CAREER'S FINISHED
WE CAN'T LET ANYBODY FIND OUT THAT HARA-WA ACTUALLY LOST CONSCIOUSNESS OUT ON THE RING,
POUR A BUCKET OF WATER ON HIM!
W WATER


I SAID GET A BUCKET OF WATER, YOU DEAF IDIOTS!
S-SORRY, COACH.

IF THE MEDIA WERE TO FIND OUT THAT HE PASSED OUT WHILE SITTING ON HIS STOOL.
MAY GOD HELP US ALL,

OR THE MEDIA FRENZY TAKING PHOTOS BY THE RINGSIDE NOTICED WHAT REALLY HAPPENED...
I'M JUST GLAD NONE OF THE FANS CHEERING HIM ON,
I BARELY MANAGED TO SALVAGE HIS REPUTATION BY MAKING UP THAT EXCUSE ABOUT A MUSCLE CRAMP

WELL!?
WHAT HAPPENED OUT THERE? DID YA THINK IT WAS NAPTIME OUT THERE OR SOMETHING!?

AT THE END OF THE 4TH ROUND...
AT..
I'M ASKING YOU WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED OUT THERE!

RIVERA HIT ME WITH A STRAIGHT... AND I COMPLETELY BLANKED OUT RIGHT AFTER..

AND ONCE REALIZING HIS FIGHTER WAS OUT COLD,

HE WAS ALREADY KNOCKED OUT AND LUCKILY STUMBLED ON THE CHAIR WE PUT OUT FOR HIM. ?

T-THEN. WHEN HARAJIMA WAS WALKING BACK TO HIS CORNER..

TO THINK RIVERA PLANNED THAT FAR AHEAD FROM THE VERY BEGINNING...

HIS COACH WOULD MAKE UP AN EXCUSE TO PROTECT HIS FIGHTER'S REPUTATION...

I MANAGED TO SNEAK IN AS YOU GUYS TRIED TO KEEP THE REPORTERS OUTSIDE.

WHEN DID YOU GET IN HERE!?

Y-YABUKI!?

SO I'LL KEEP IT TO MYSELF.

AFTER ALL, YOU GUYS HAVE HARAJIMA'S REPUTATION TO PROTECT, WHILE RIVERA, ROBERT, AND YOLIKO STILL NEED TO LURE TIGER OZAKI IN TO A FIGHT CONTRACT.

I WON'T TELL ANYBODY THAT HARAJIMA WAS ACTUALLY KO'D BY RIVERA.

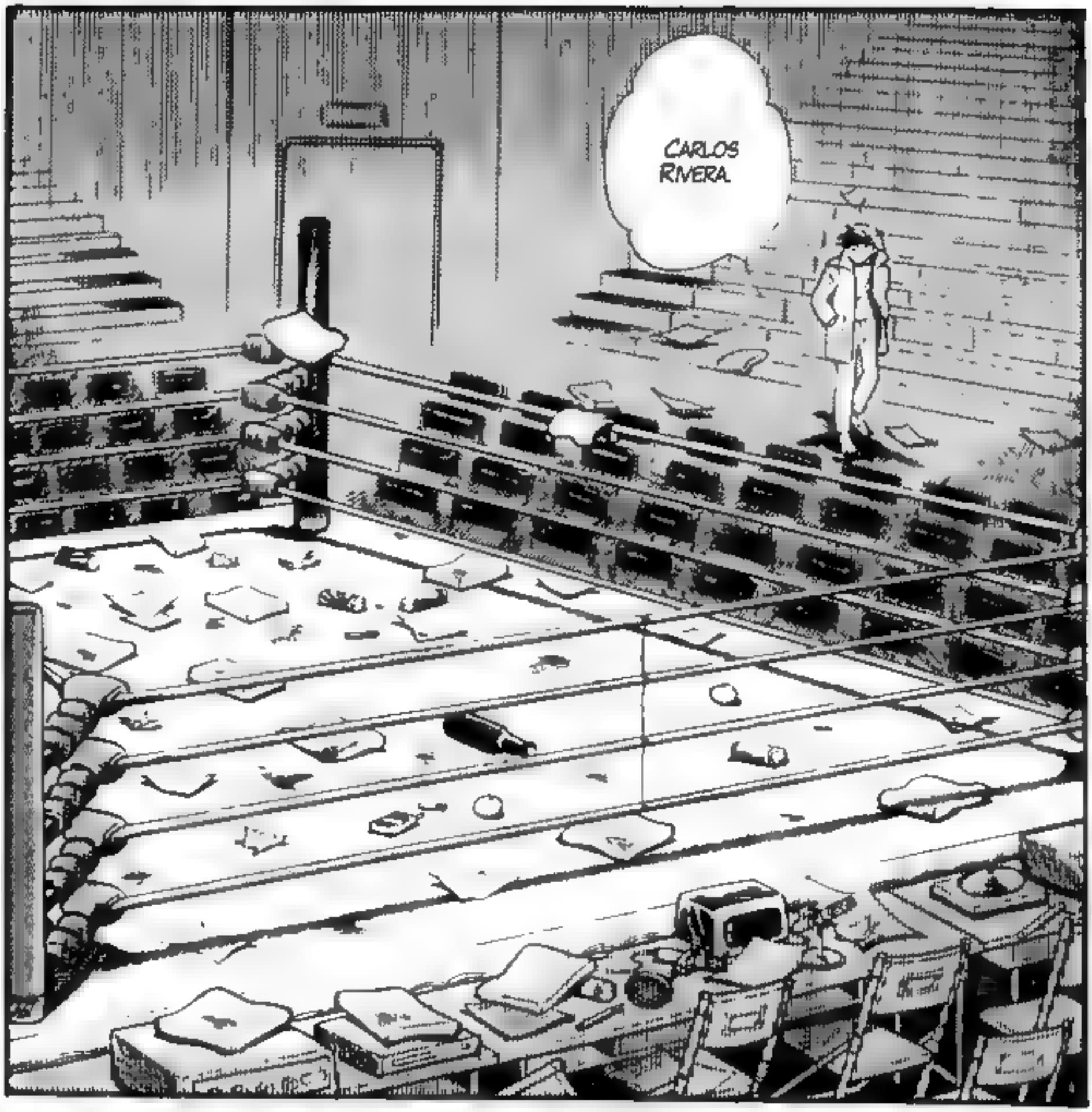
BUT DON'T WORRY.

ニヤリ…

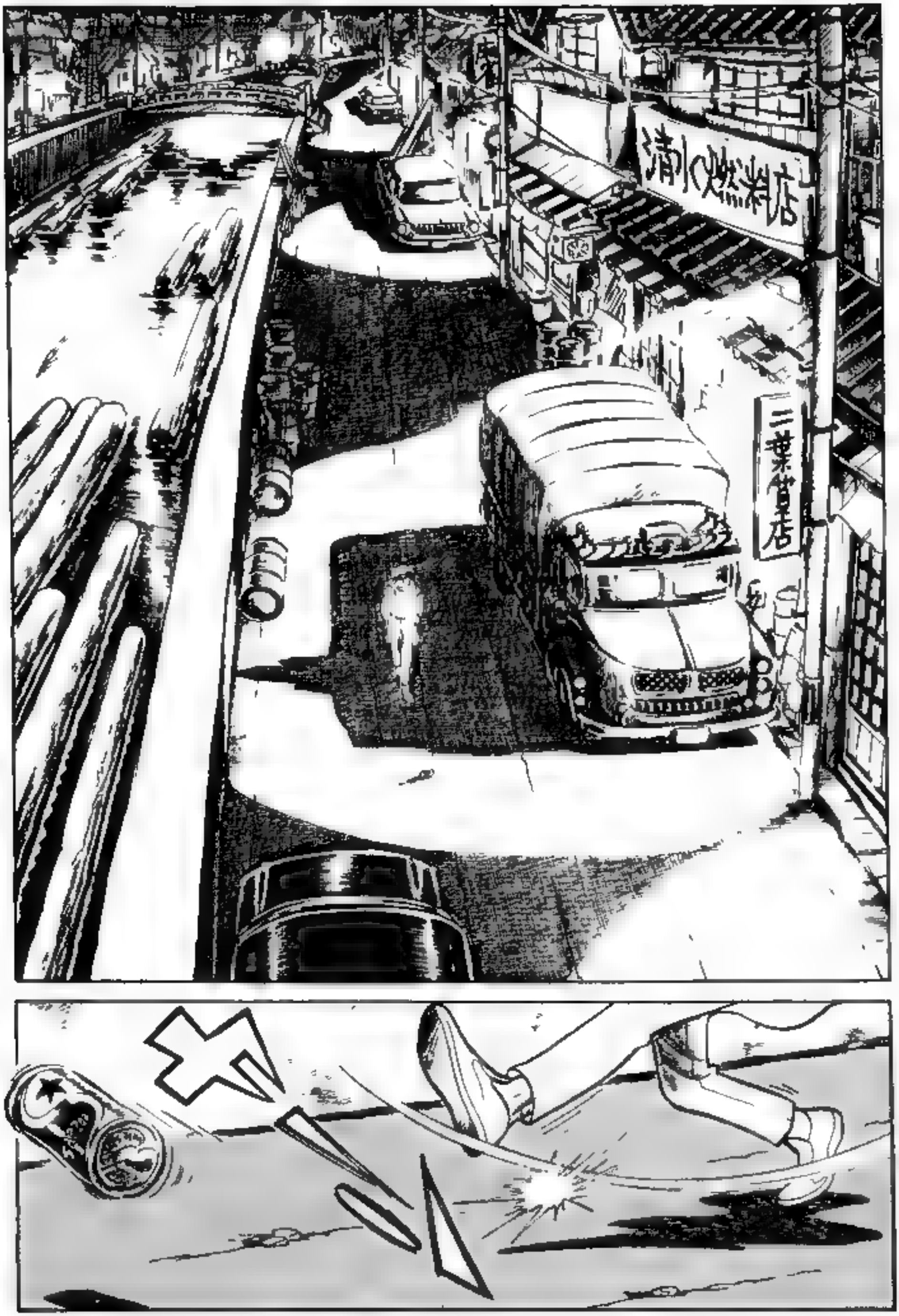
STRONG ENOUGH TO MAKE MY VERY BONES TREMBLE.

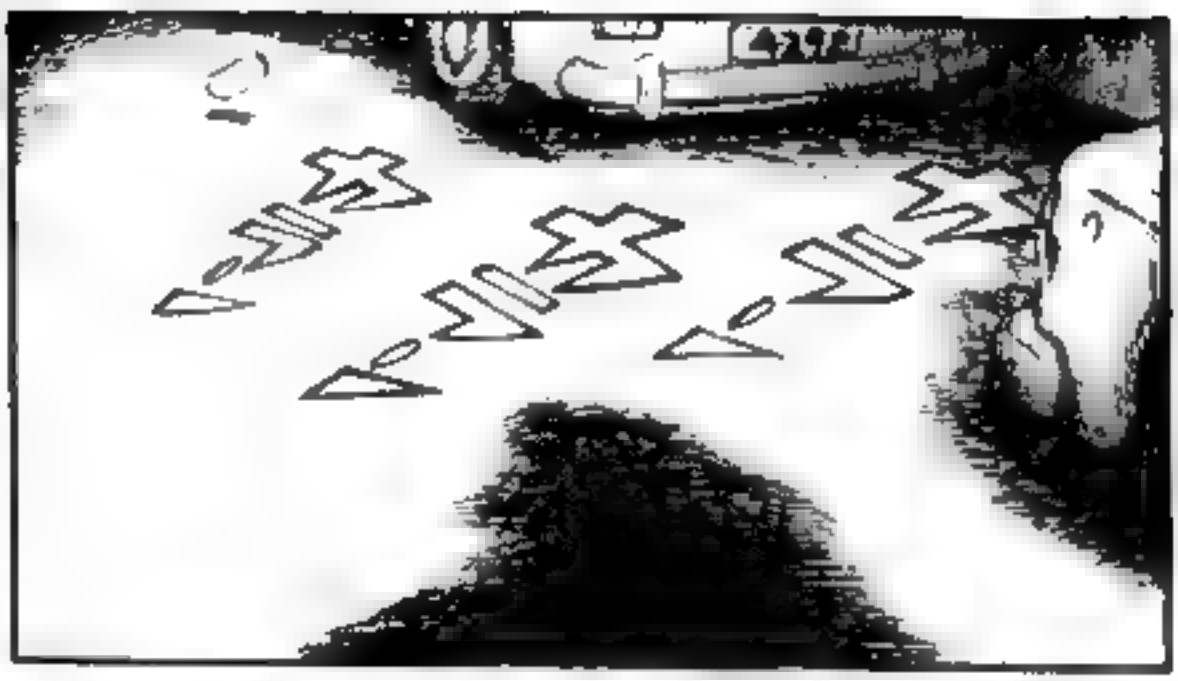
I'LL KEEP HOW STRONG RIVERA REALLY IS ALL TO MYSELF...

HAHA...

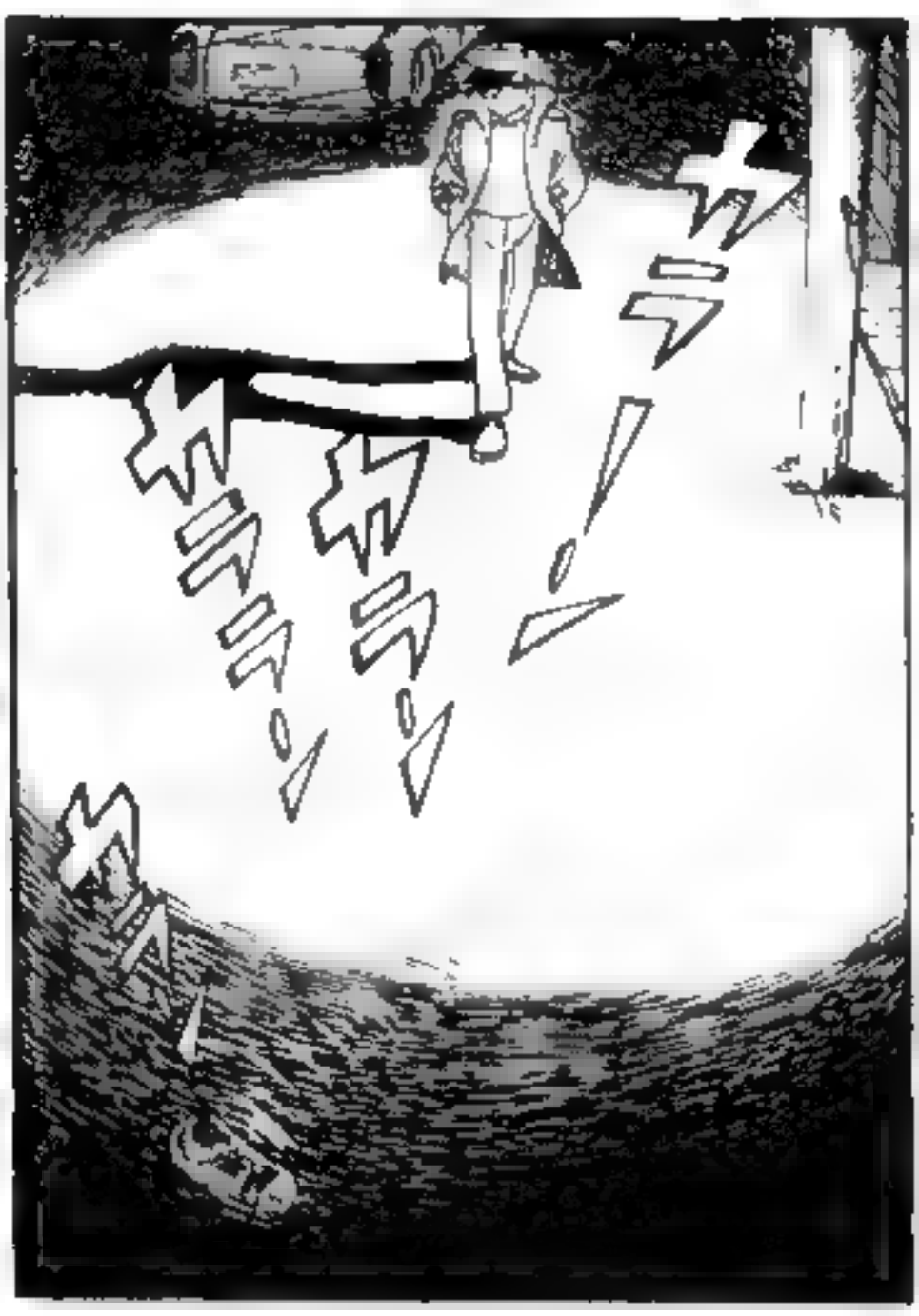

CARLOS RIVERA

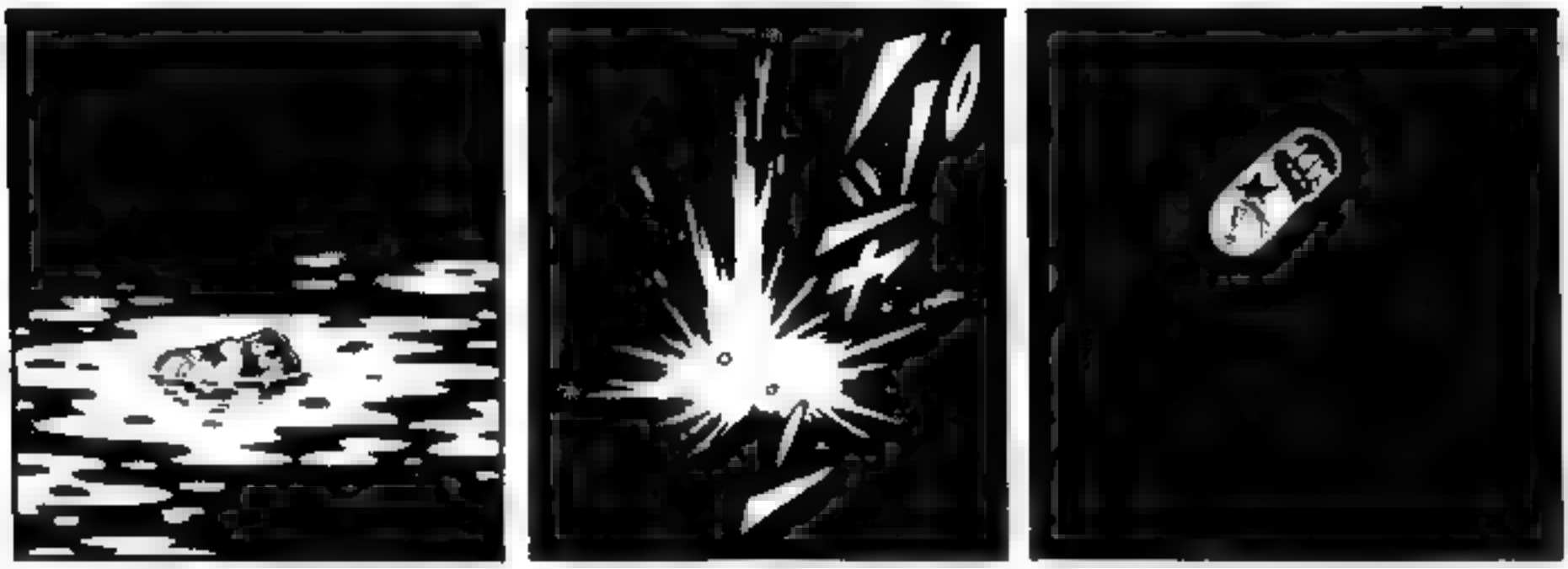
I'VE GOT AN EVEN DEEPER RESPECT FOR MY BADGE OF HONOUR NOW...
IT'S JUST AS YOU SAID..

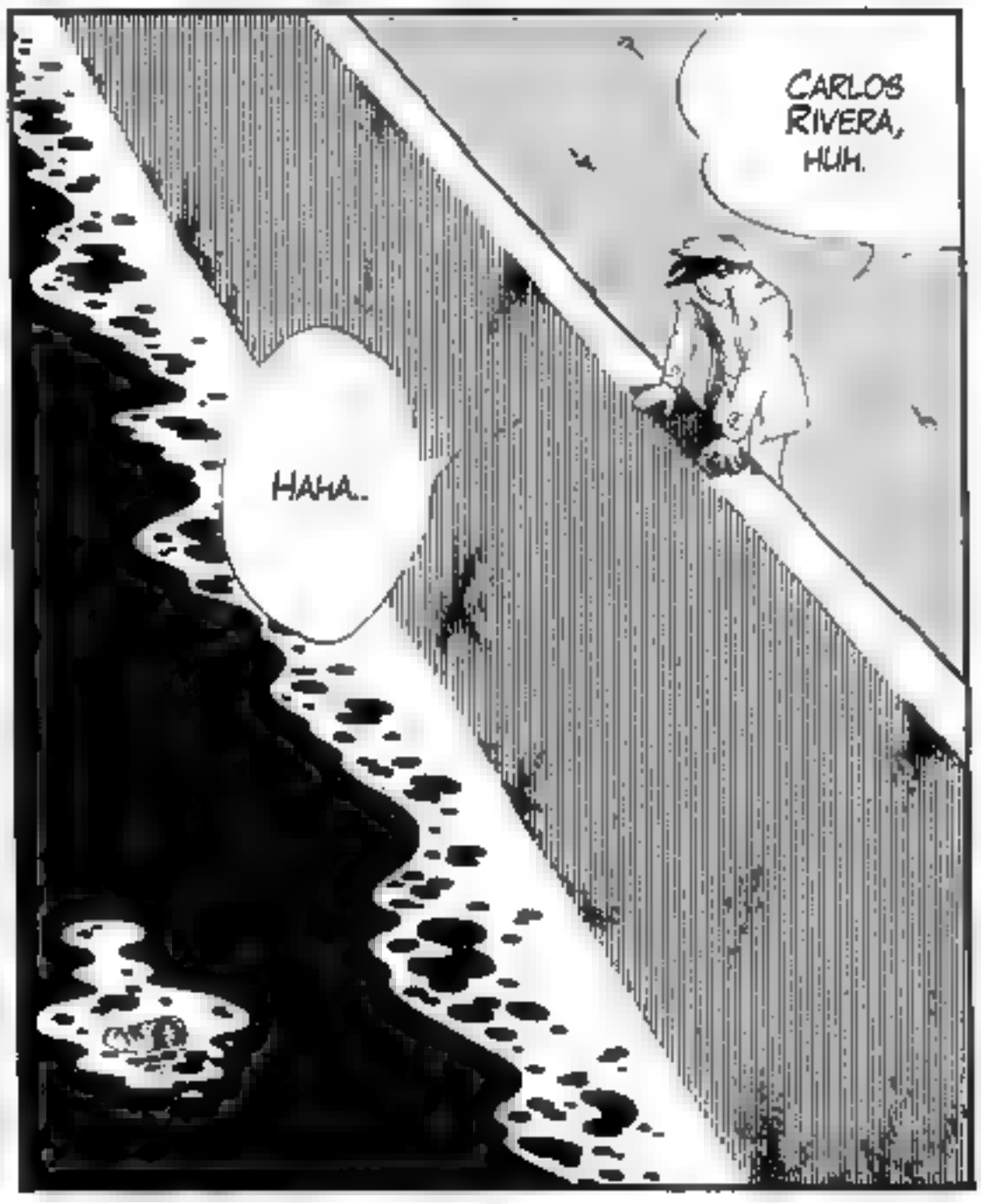

清水燃料店
二葉貨店

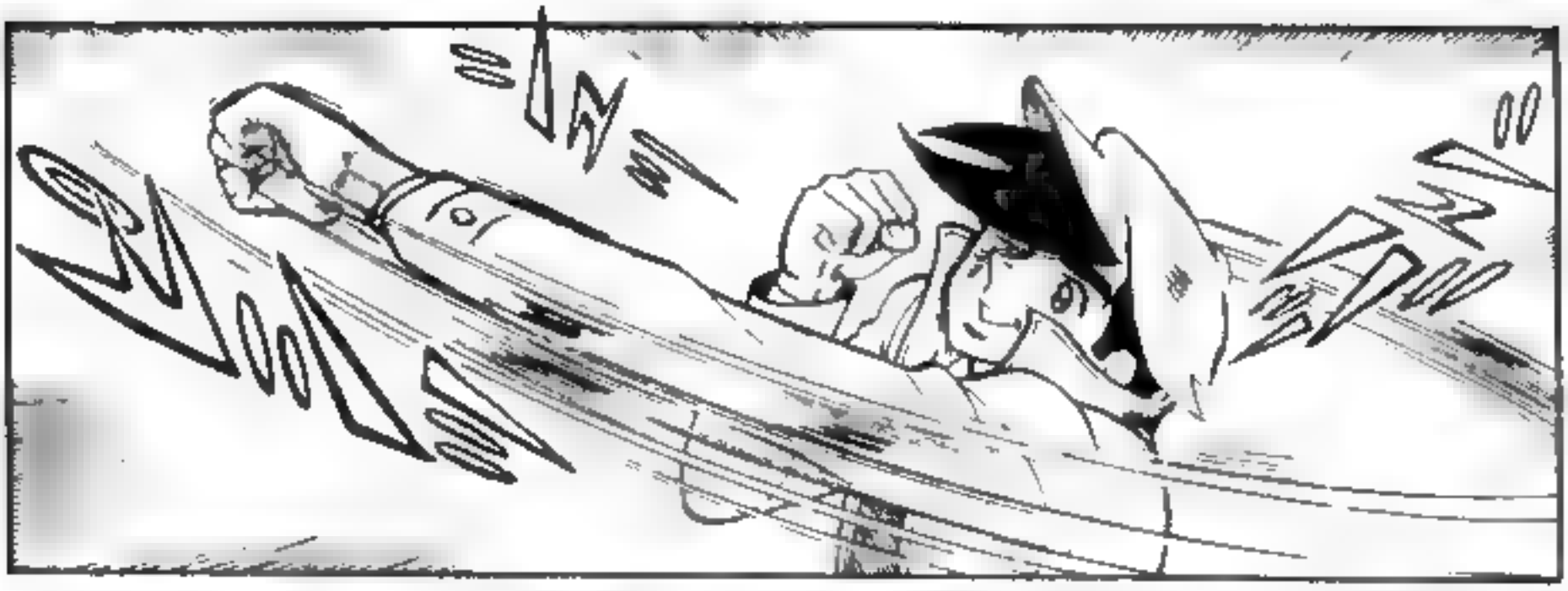


CARLOS RIVERA...
HAHA ...






CARLOS RIVERA, HUH.
HAHA..



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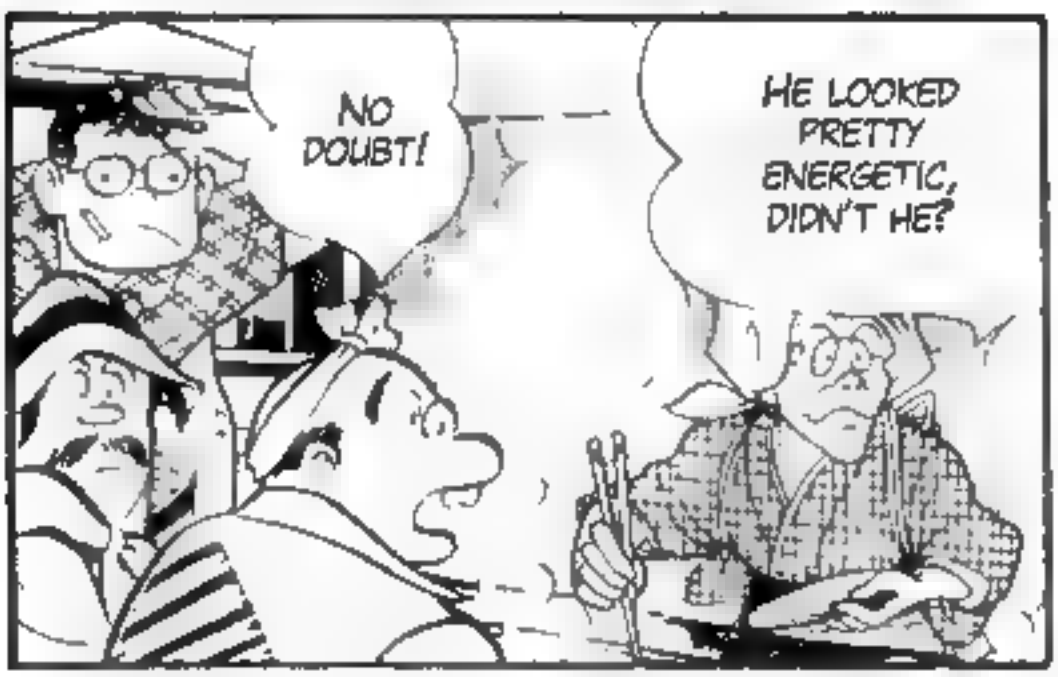

NO DOUBT!
HE LOOKED PRETTY ENERGETIC, DIDN'T HE?

HUH...
HEY... WASN'T THAT JOE JUST NOW?

HE IS A YOUNG MAN, AFTER ALL.

IT WOULDN'T BE SURPRISING IF HE WERE.

WHA! JOE...? IN LOVE!?

MAYBE HE'S IN LOVE?

WONDER IF SOMETHIN' GOOD HAPPENED TO HIM?

BOY... IT'S BEEN A LOOONG TIME SINCE I'VE SEEN HIM LIKE THAT.

I'M BACK!

AHAHA! YOU'RE A REAL MANHUNTER, GRANNY!

I TELL YA, IF I WERE JUST 10 YEARS YOUNGER, I'D BE ALL OVER HIM!

BAHAHAHA!

HEE HEE HEE!

MMM..

ヒック

UGH, IT STINKS IN HERE...

OH BOY. HITTIN' THE CHEAP BOOZE AGAIN?

YOU SURE DO LOVE A DRINK, DON'CHA?

JUST DROPPED BY HARAJIMA'S LOCKER ROOM AFTER THE FIGHT.

OH, NOWHERE REALLY.

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN LOITERING ALL NIGHT?

YOU'RE HOME LATE..

HE WAS ACTUALLY OUT COLD!

THAT WHOLE LEG CRAMP EXCUSE WAS NOTHIN' BUT A LIE! HAHAHA...

HARA-JIMA'S LOCKER ROOM?

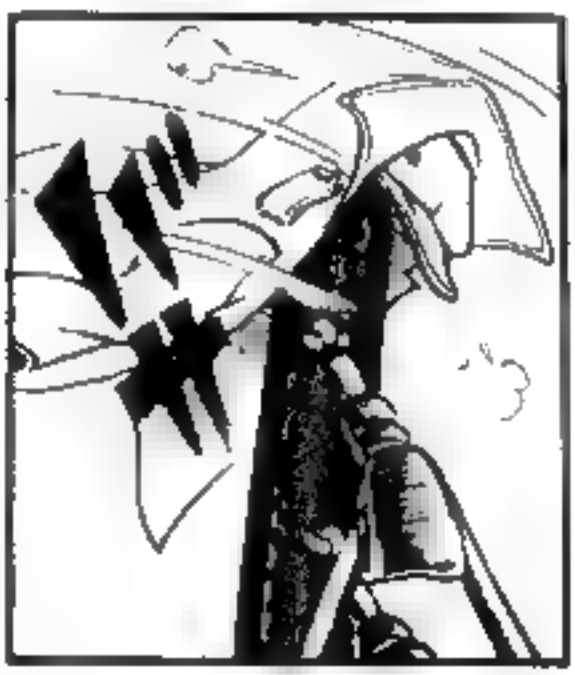
....

YOU NOTICED THAT THE PUNCH HE TOOK AT THE END OF THE 4TH ROUND WAS WHAT KO'D HIM, RIGHT?
YOU KNOW, RIGHT?
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT? A SINGLE PUNCH KO!

HAVE FUN WITH YOUR LITTLE BOTTLE THERE, I WON'T BOTHER YA.

NO FUN IN TALKING TO A DRUNK.
AH, WHATEVER.

WHERE WERE MY GLOVES...?
LET'S SEE,



WHOA!

HOLY MOLY.. COUGH COUGH!

COULD THESE GLOVES BE ANY DUSTIER?

AND YOU CALL THIS A GYM, OLD MAN?

A GYM? NOT LIKE I HAVE ANY BOXERS.

HAHA... FINE, FINE, I GET YA!

DON'T MIND ME WHILE I WORK OUT A BIT THEN.

K'
SO ARE YA SAYIN' THAT YOU WANNA COME BACK?
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS KILLER-STRAIGHT! SAME AS EVER, EH?
DANGEROUS ENOUGH TO EVEN GET CARLOS ALL TENSE AND SERIOUS!
HEH, CAN'T YOU TELL?

CLANG CLANG SMASH!!

WHOA-

YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST WALTZ BACK INTO THE RING AFTER ALL THIS TIME!?

CUT IT OUT!

THAT AIN'T GOOD FOR YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE.

DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT. NO NEED TO YELL SO LOUD.

I'M SERIOUS, JOE.

I'M NOT DRUNK..

WELL, CONSIDERING HOW DRUNK YOU ARE RIGHT NOW, I DON'T BLAME YA.

SO IT LOOKS TO YOU LIKE I MERELY "WALTZED BACK," DOES IT NOW?

OH NOTHING, REALLY.

HA HA...

ONLY TO TRAVEL FROM PLACE TO PLACE FIGHTING IN UNOFFICIAL RINGS WITH OTHER WASHED-UP BOXERS... BUT YOU'VE EVEN LEFT THAT BEHIND TOO NOW.

AFTER 3 HUMILIATING LOSSES, YOU DISAPPEARED FROM THE BOXING WORLD,

IS A NICE BIG BADGE OF HONOUR FOR MYSELF.

ALL I WANT...

SO WHAT THE HELL IS IT YOU PLAN ON DOING NOW?

A BADGE OF HONOUR FOR FIGHTING A BOXER WITH UNLIMITED POTENTIAL...

A BADGE OF HONOUR?

CARLOS RIVERA HIMSELF!

A FALSE BRAGGART LIKE HIM'S NOTHING BUT A BLIGHT UPON THE BOXING WORLD!

UNLIMITED POTENTIAL? PFFT

RIVERA?

IN MY OPINION,

HEH, SO YOU THINK HE'S A FRAUD DO YA...

THAT SAYS MORE ABOUT YOUR OWN POTENTIAL THAN HIS!

PFFFT!

EHE HEH...

HEE HEE.

IT'S JUST THAT... OH MAN... YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN THERE FOR RIVERA'S PREDICTION.

HAHA..

HA..

AHAHAHA...

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

HE CALLED UP ALL THE REPORTERS TO THE RING AND MADE A GRAND ANNOUNCEMENT... HAHAHA!

IT HAPPENED JUST AS YOU WERE PROBABLY SNEAKING INTO HARAJIMA'S LOCKER ROOM.

WAS A REAL RIOT, I'LL TELL YOU THAT...

HE SAID HE'D KO TIGER IN JUST ONE ROUND.

RIGHT, RIGHT. WELL IN HIS NEXT MATCH AGAINST TIGER OZAKI,

HEH HEH.

GET TO THE POINT ALREADY

. . . .

AND HE SHOUTED HE'D NOT ONLY KO TIGER IN THE 1ST ROUND BUT THAT HE'D DO IT WITHIN THE 1ST MINUTE!

AND HE... HE POINTED HIS FINGER UP INTO THE AIR LIKE THIS... HAHA...

WHO'D BELIEVE SOME FRAUD WHO ONLY BARELY MANAGED TO BEAT NANGOU AND HARAJIMA THROUGH A MIRACLE CAN ACTUALLY KO THE JAPANESE CHAMPION IN ONE MINUTE?

NOT SURPRISING.

THAT HAD ALL THE REPORTERS LAUGHING HYSTERICALLY,

AND EVEN THE ANGRY CROWD JUST AS THEY WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE THE ARENA.

HEE HEE HEE HEE!

AHAHAHAHA!

AHAHA. HAHA...

IT'S RIKIISHI...

JUST A WEEK BEFORE OUR MATCH.

BACK IN JUVIE,

RIKIISHI'S BACK...

HUH, WHAT?

HA..

ONE MINUTE'S ALL I'LL NEED TO TURN THIS BUFFOON INTO A CRIPPLE!

AND NOT JUST IN THE 1ST ROUND BUT WITHIN THE FIRST MINUTE!

STILL CAN'T MAKE SENSE OF WHAT I'M SAYING?

WHAT'S WRONG?

SEEMS LIKE CARLOS IS FINALLY SET ON REVEALING HIS TRUE SELF.

THAT'S THE PREDICTION HE MADE...

J-JOE.

STAYING UP LATE AIN'T HEALTHY FOR GEEZERS LIKE YOU.

AND HURRY ON TO BED IF YOU'VE FINISHED DRINKING.

WIPE THAT DUMB BLANK STARE OFF OF YOUR FACE,

HAHA... SAY WHAT YOU WILL BUT I CAN READ YOU LIKE A BOOK, OLD MAN.

WHAT, ARE YOU TREMBLING?

JOE, YOU...

THAT CARLOS IS NOTHING BUT A WORTHLESS FRAU-

I MUST'VE BEEN OUT OF MY MIND BACK THEN.

NO, YOU'RE WRONG!

N-NO, THAT'S NOT IT

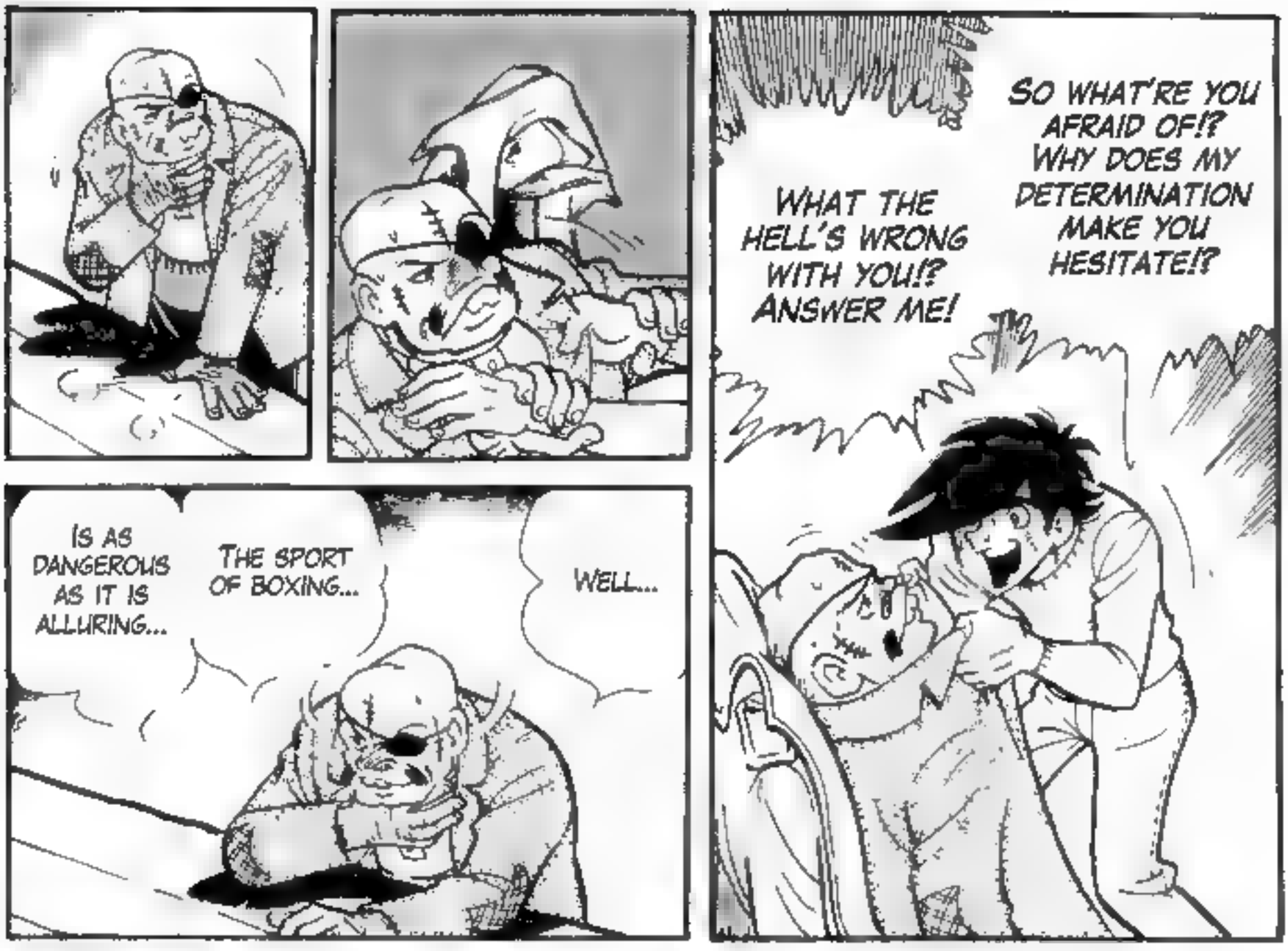
YOU'RE MORE AWARE OF CARLOS' TRUE POTENTIAL THAN EVEN I AM.

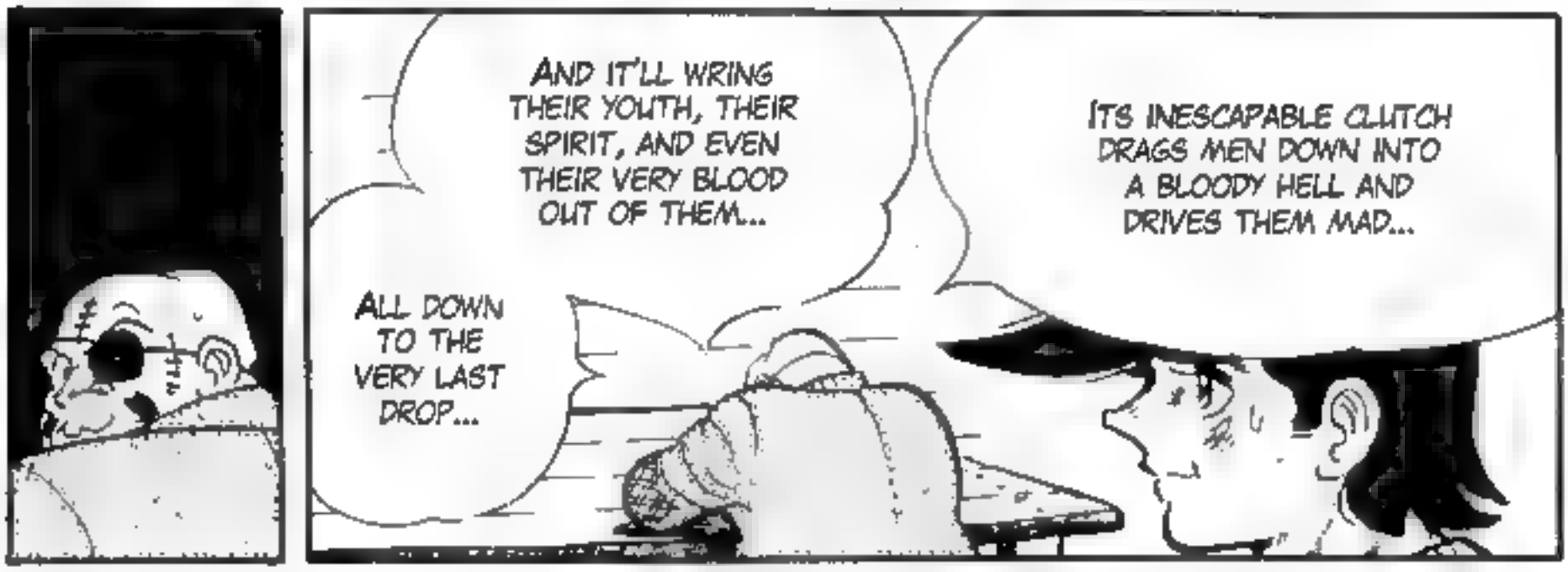
STOP PLAYING DUMB WITH ME!

WHY ELSE WOULD YOU HAVE MADE ALL THAT RUCKUS WHEN I APPLIED TO BE RIVERA'S SPARRING PARTNER? NO USE IN TRYING TO HIDE IT NOW.

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT! MY WHOLE BODY'S ALREADY AFLAME WITH EXCITEMENT!

CAN'T YOU SEE I'M FINALLY REGAINING MY SPARK AFTER THE LONGEST TIME!? OR ARE YOU DELIBERATELY TRYING TO EXTINGUISH IT!?


WELL...
THE SPORT OF BOXING...
IS AS DANGEROUS AS IT IS ALLURING...
WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU!? ANSWER ME!
SO WHAT'RE YOU AFRAID OF!? WHY DOES MY DETERMINATION MAKE YOU HESITATE!?


ITS INESCAPABLE CLUTCH DRAGS MEN DOWN INTO A BLOODY HELL AND DRIVES THEM MAD...
AND IT'LL WRING THEIR YOUTH, THEIR SPIRIT, AND EVEN THEIR VERY BLOOD OUT OF THEM...
ALL DOWN TO THE VERY LAST DROP...
HA,
HEH HEH.
THOSE LEFT BEHIND SHOULDN'T FOLLOW
YOU HAVE TO STEP AWAY,
BEFORE YOU'RE SUCKED IN ANY DEEPER!
ARE YOU LISTENIN'!?
LISTEN, JOE.
YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN CAST ASIDE BY THE BOXING WORLD.
IT'S TIME TO LET GO.

.....

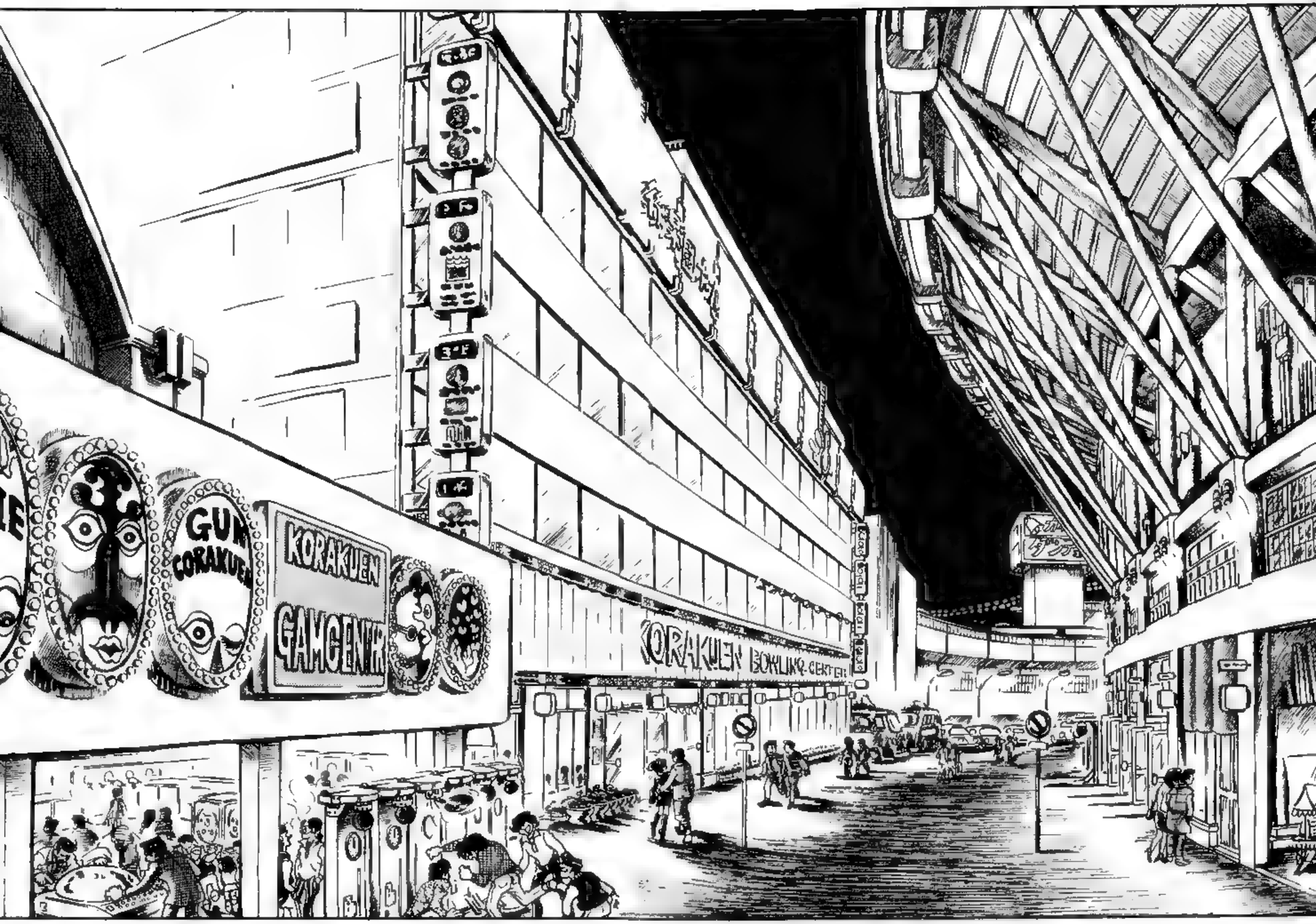
I'LL WALK ALONE IF I HAVE TO.
I DON'T NEED YOU ANYMORE.

IT'S ALL OVER FOR A BOXING GYM IF THE OWNER STARTS GETTING SOFT ON HIS FIGHTERS.
YOU MIGHT BE BETTER OFF CHANGING THIS PLACE INTO A CANDY SHOP FOR LITTLE KIDS.

J-JOE. ARE YOU SERIOUSLY-
DON'T NEED ME?

I'LL CARVE OUT A PATH FOR ME ALONE!
YOU AND I ARE THROUGH SO STAY AWAY FROM ME, Y'HEAR!?
JOE..!

I TOLD YOU I DON'T NEED YOU ANYMORE!


GUN
CORAKUEN
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N
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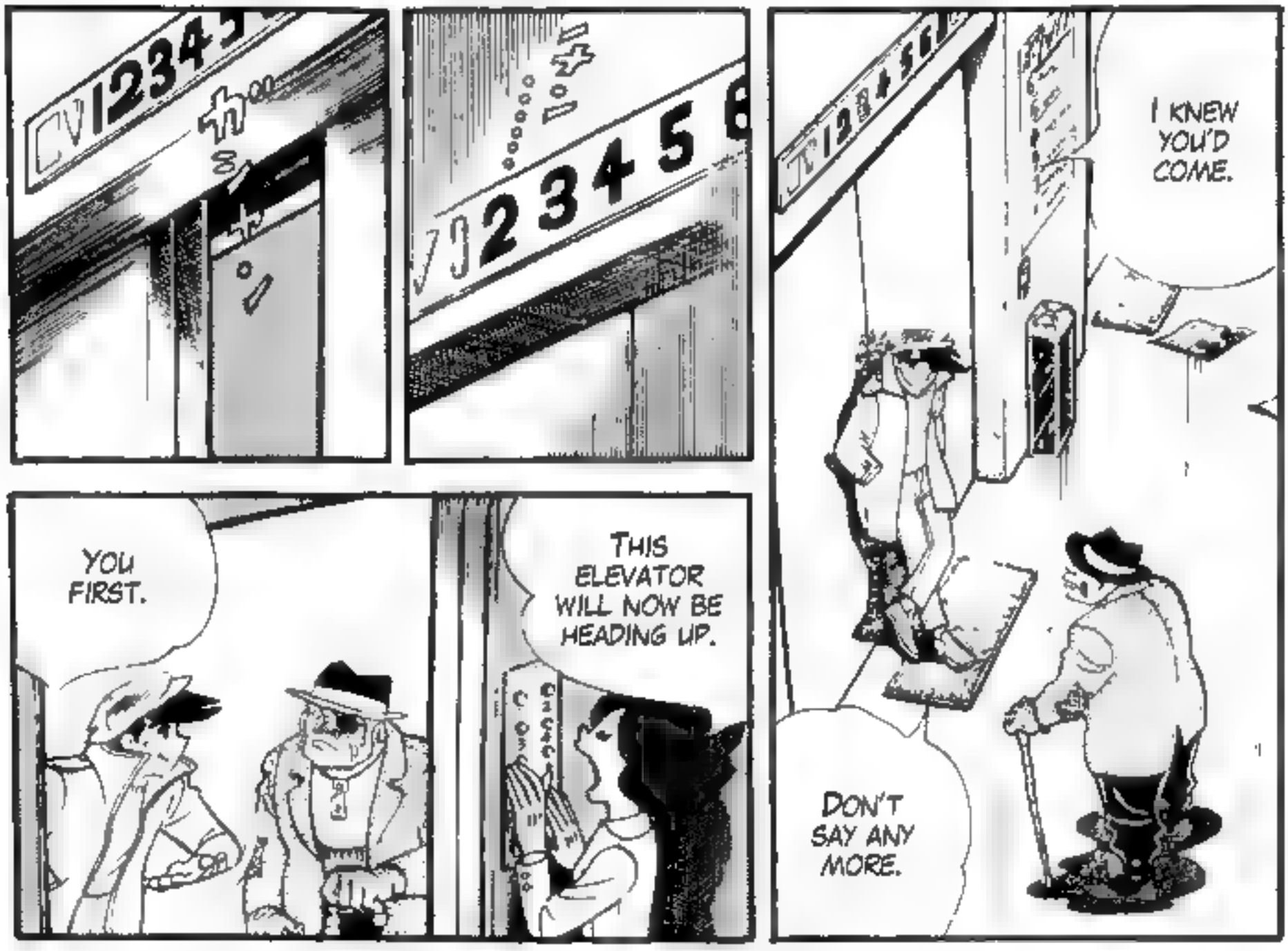
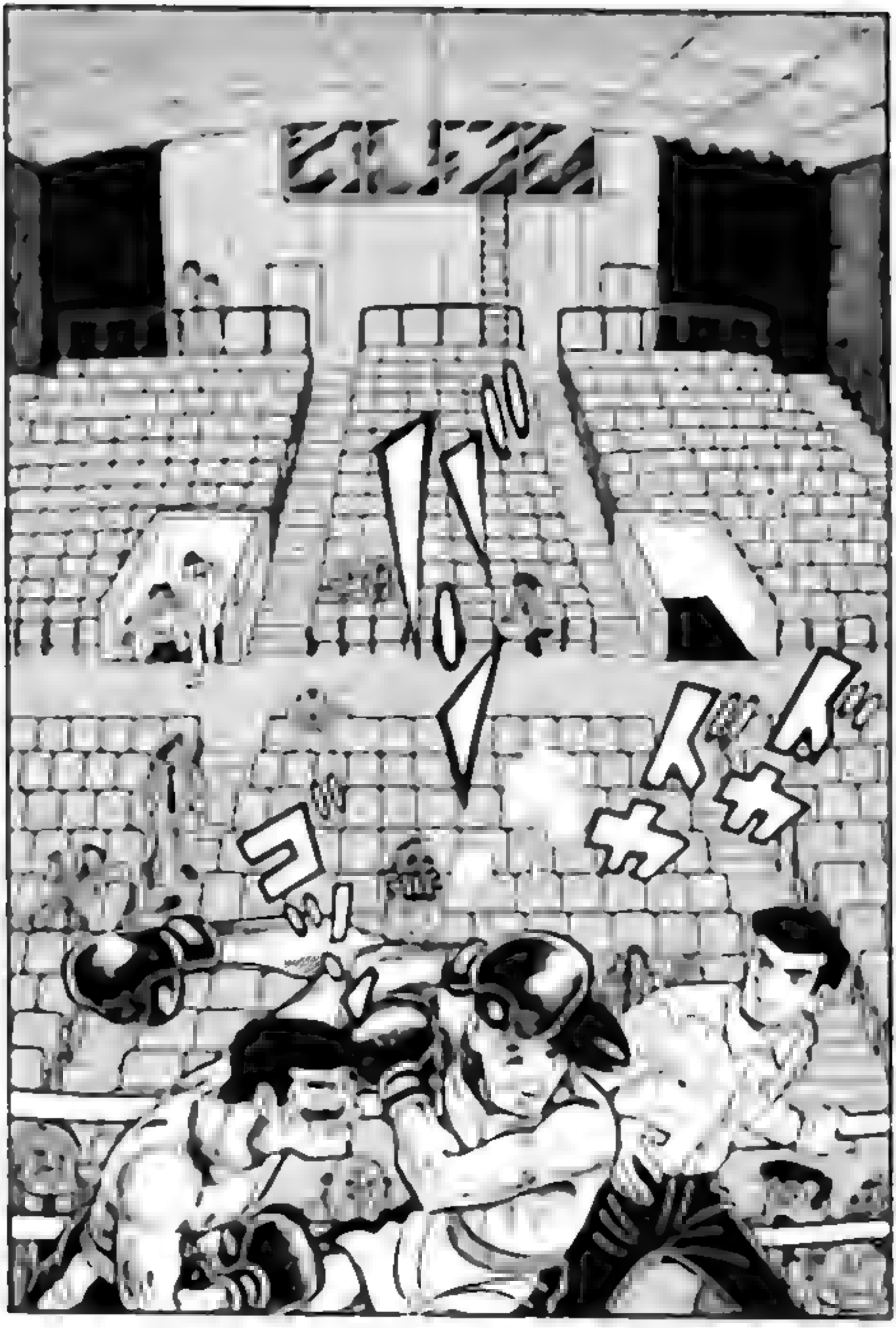
BOXING
BOXING

LET'S SEE...
BOXNIG
J-JOE?
入場券売場
THEY'RE CHEAP SEATS THOUGH.
IF IT'S TICKETS YOU WANT, I HAVE SOME.


I KNEW YOU'D COME.
YOU FIRST.
THIS ELEVATOR WILL NOW BE HEADING UP.
DON'T SAY ANY MORE.


ELFEN

LET'S SEE...

BUT TALK ABOUT AN EMPTY CROWD...

WHOA... I KNOW THERE'S STILL A LOT OF TIME LEFT BEFORE THE MAIN EVENT,

OVER HERE, OLD MAN.

OUR SEATS ARE...

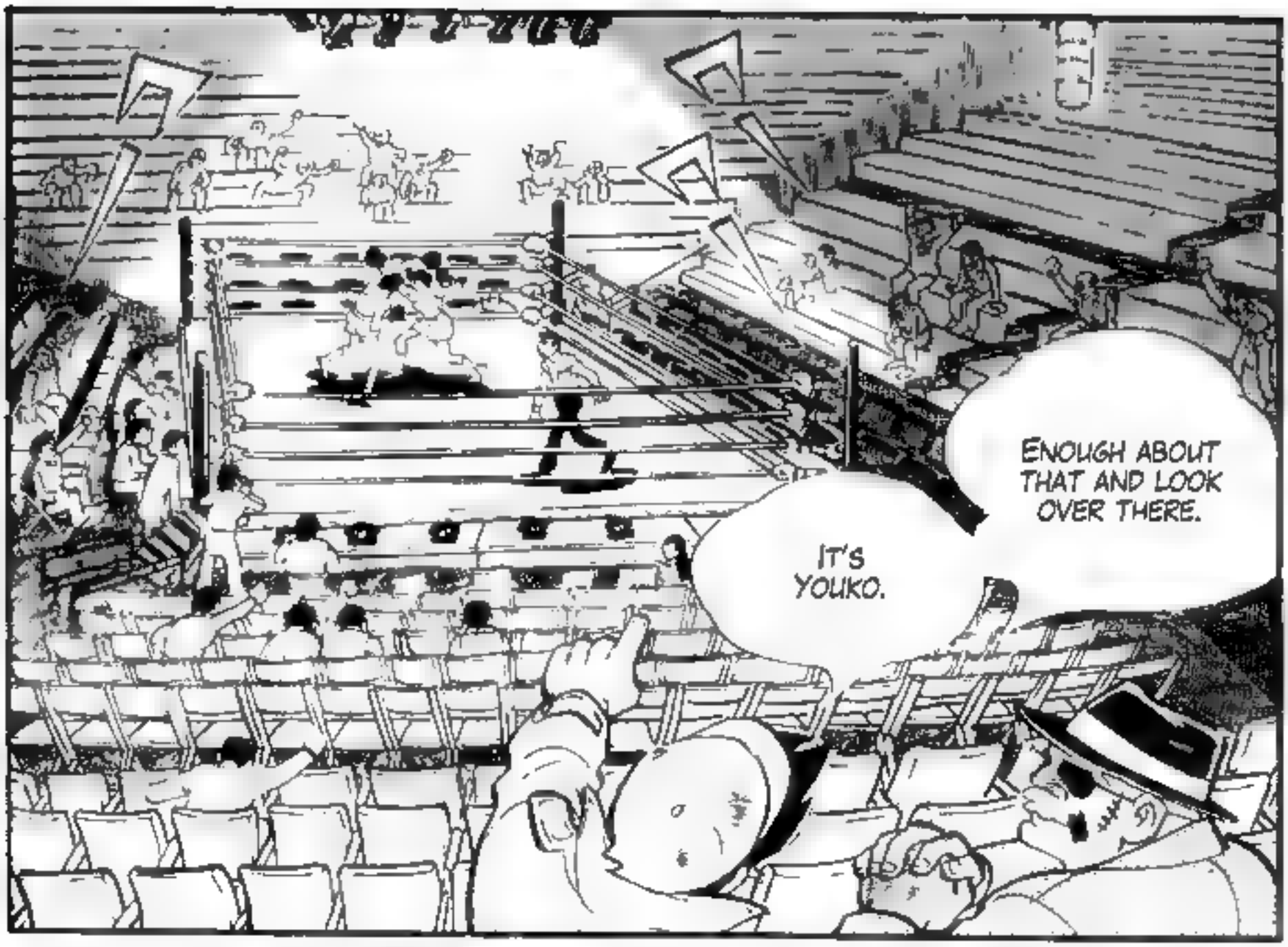
YES, BUT WHERE HAVE YOU-

BUT DON'T WORRY, I'VE BEEN SLEEPING JUST FINE.

HAHA, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A GUY WITHOUT A PROPER HOME.

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN SLEEPING THESE DAYS?

JOE...


ENOUGH ABOUT THAT AND LOOK OVER THERE.
IT'S YOUKO.

ARE YOU MR. TANGE AND YABUKI OF TANGE GYM?
EXCUSE ME, SIRS.

SHE'S LIKE AN EXCITED HOSTESS PLANNING OUT THE PERFECT PARTY.
HEH... SHE'S LOOKING AWFULLY HAPPY EVEN THOUGH THE STADIUM'S MOSTLY EMPTY.

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO LEAD YOU DOWN TO YOUR NEW SEATS.

SINCE YOU CAN'T GET A GOOD VIEW OF THE ACTION FROM UP HERE,

V.I.P. SEATS?

MS. SHIRAKI HAS RESERVED V.I.P. SEATS BY THE RING SIDE FOR YOU.

WE'LL MOVE CLOSER TO THE RING IF AND WHEN WE FEEL LIKE IT.

I APPRECIATE THE OFFER BUT WITH ALL THESE EMPTY SEATS AROUND,

BUT...

J-JOE...

NO NEED FOR YOUR CONCERNS!

HA!

YOU'RE BLOCKING MY VIEW.

SO JUST MOVE IT FOR NOW.

SHE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT, HAS SHE...

AS CALM AND COLLECTED AS EVER.

LET'S MOVE DOWN CLOSER TO THE RING.

WELL, SINCE THE WHOLE STADIUM'S PRETTY MUCH EMPTY,

HOW ARE YA, PRINCESS?

THE STADIUM'S LOOKING PRETTY EMPTY THOUGH, HAHA...

SUCH A SHAME.

AFTER ALL THE MONEY YOU SPENT IN BRINGING RIVERA TO JAPAN AND ARRANGING HIS FIGHTS, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU MIGHT BE IN THE RED.

J-JOE, THAT'S RUDE...

BUT IT'S BEEN PRETTY RELAXING.

I'VE GOTTA WORK DURING THE DAYS FIXING ROADS OR THE SEWERS,

OH, IT'S A NICE LITTLE CONSTRUCTION CAMP.

WELL?

I WANT YOU TO TELL ME WHERE YOU'VE BEEN STAYING AT.

I-IN ANY CASE,

SO I HAVE TO BEAR RESPONSIBILITY AS WELL.

I WAS THE ONE WHO ORIGINALLY PUSHED YOU INTO THE BOXING WORLD,

I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.

I... I WANT YOU TO COME BACK.

WHATEVER THE RESULTS THAT LIE AHEAD ARE...

SO INSTEAD OF DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE, I'LL DO THE OPPOSITE AND PUSH YOU ON AHEAD,

I KNOW... THAT NO MATTER WHAT I SAY, THERE'S NO WAY OF SEPARATING YOU FROM THE RING...

IT'S NOTHING.

N-NO,

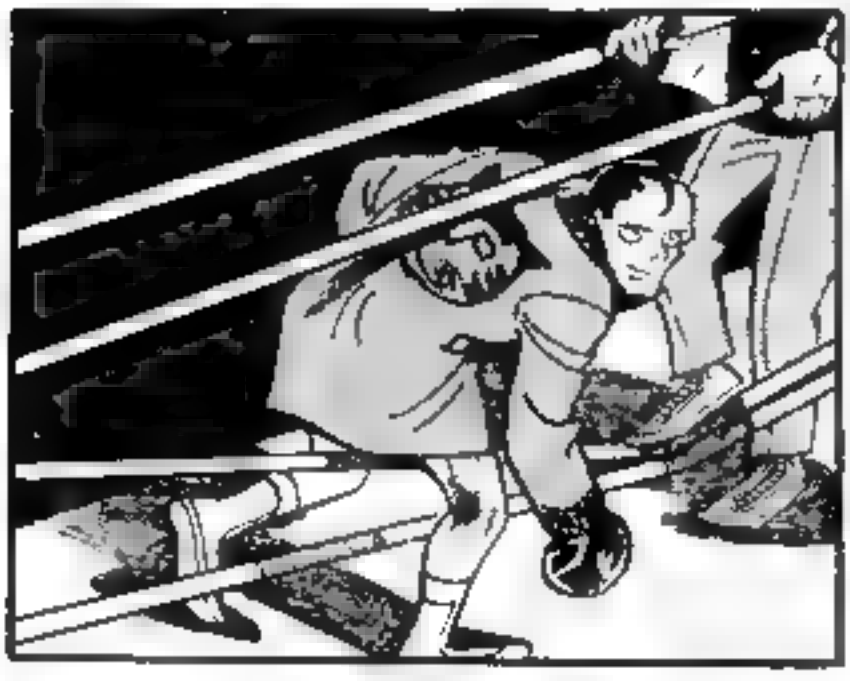
JUST IGNORE IT.

WELL?

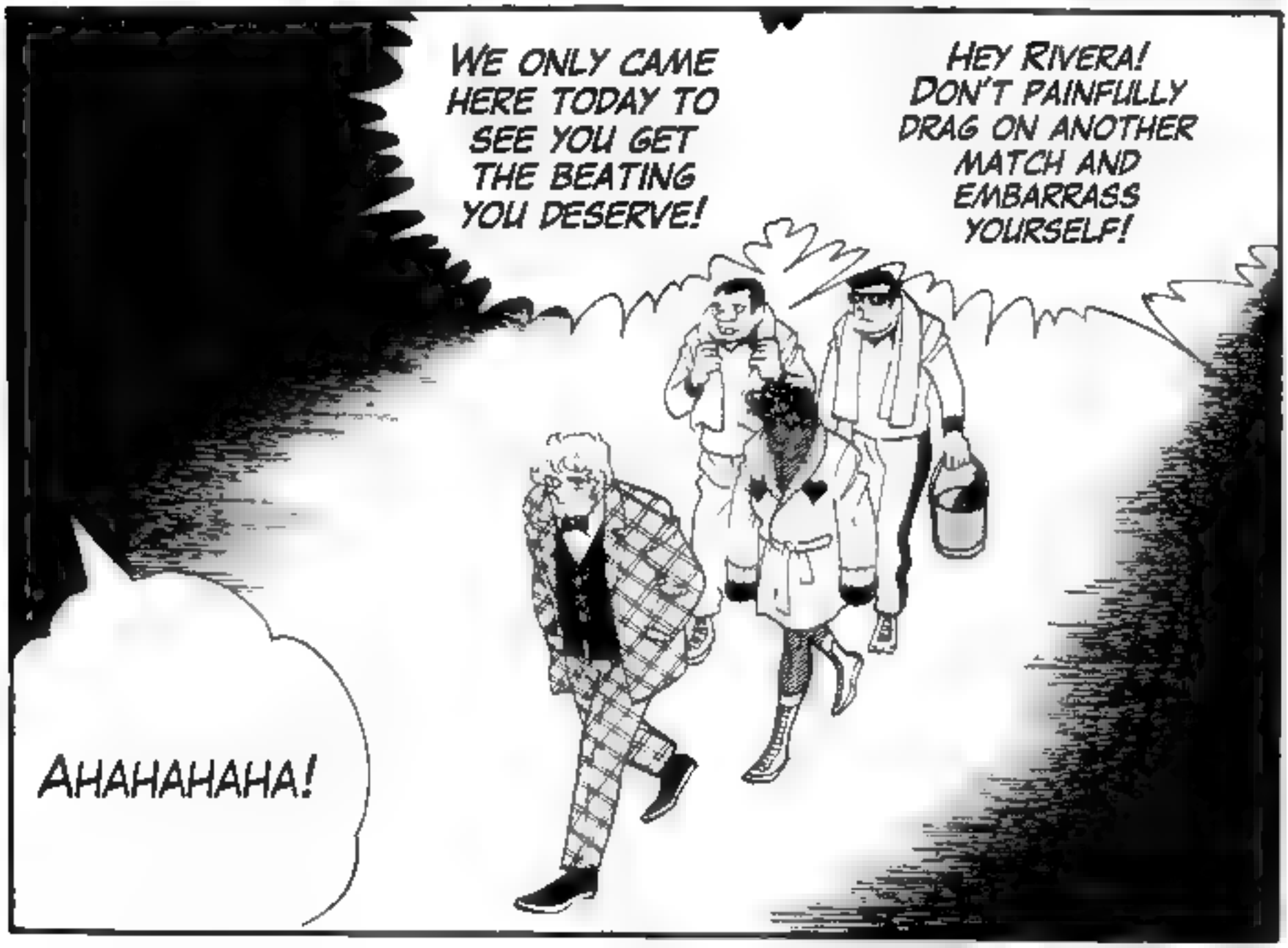
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "WHATEVER THE RESULTS"?

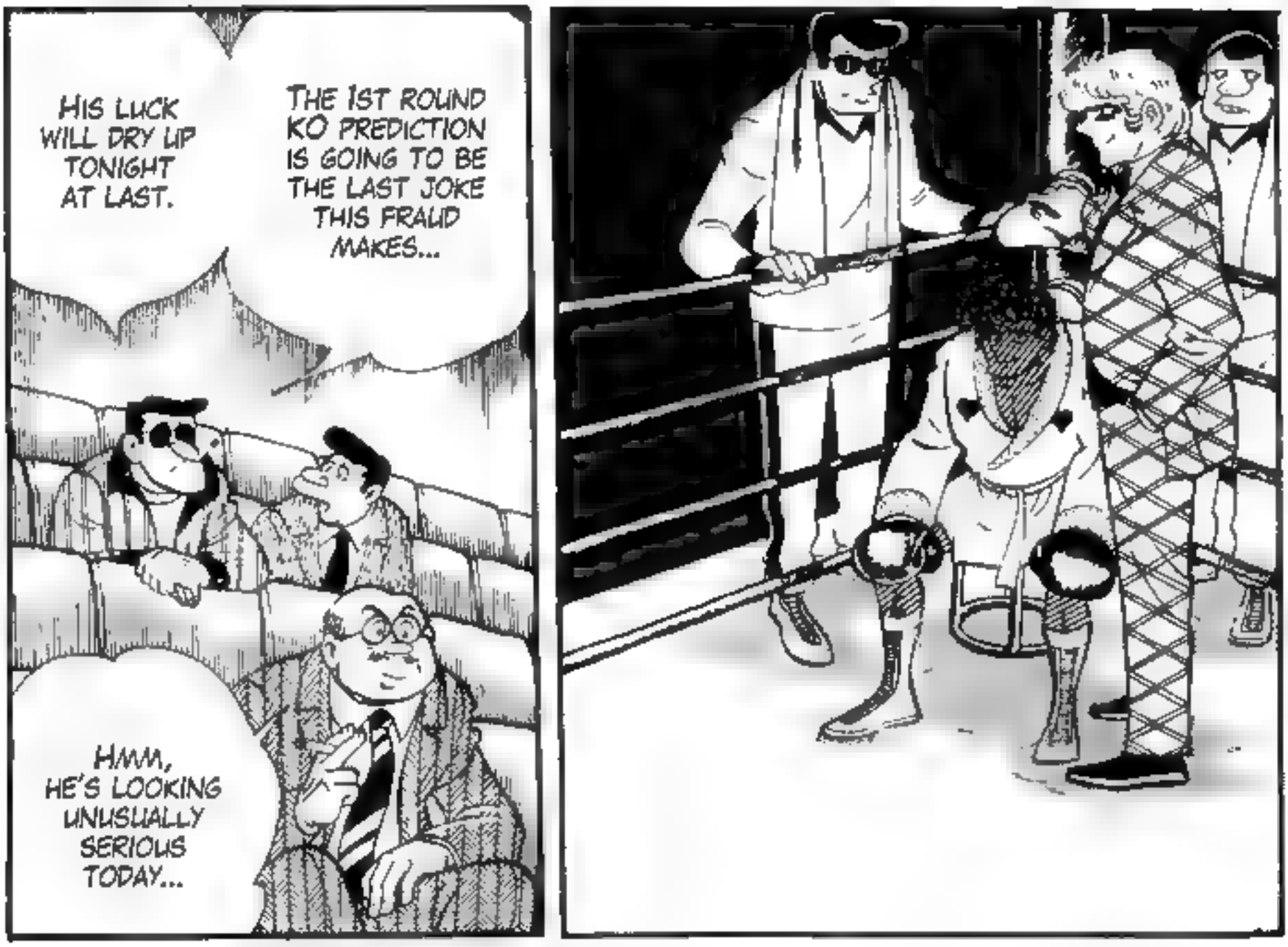
THAT'S AN AWFULLY OMINOUS STATE-MENT.

WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YA, TIGER OZAKI!



YOU'RE LOOKIN' LIKE A REAL CHAMP!
TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT FOR YOU TO RISE FROM JAPAN TO THE WORLD!


WE ONLY CAME HERE TODAY TO SEE YOU GET THE BEATING YOU DESERVE!
HEY RIVERA! DON'T PAINFULLY DRAG ON ANOTHER MATCH AND EMBARRASS YOURSELF!
AHAHAHAHA!


HIS LUCK WILL DRY UP TONIGHT AT LAST.
THE 1ST ROUND KO PREDICTION IS GOING TO BE THE LAST JOKE THIS FRAUD MAKES...
HMM, HE'S LOOKING UNUSUALLY SERIOUS TODAY...

I DARESAY EVEN RIVERA WON'T BE ABLE TO RELY ON ANOTHER MIRACLE FOR THE 3RD TIME TONIGHT!

AND IN THE OTHER CORNER STANDS TIGER OZAKI, WHO HAS HIS EYES SET ON ENTERING THE WORLD RANKINGS.

IN ONE CORNER STANDS CARLOS RIVERA, THE 6TH RANKED BANTAMWEIGHT IN THE WORLD WHO'S FAILED TO LIVE UP TO ALL EXPECTATIONS AND MERELY HOLDS ONTO HIS EMPTY NICKNAMES.

TONIGHT WILL BE HIS FINAL MATCH IN JAPAN!

AND NOBODY CAN SERIOUSLY BELIEVE RIVERA'S PREDICTION FOR A 1ST ROUND KO WIN.

IT'S NOT SURPRISING, OF COURSE. AFTER THE POOR, UNINSPIRED PERFORMANCES SHOWN BY RIVERA AND THE ANTICLIMACTIC CONCLUSIONS TO BOTH FIGHTS, IT'S NO WONDER THERE'S HARDLY ANYONE LEFT WILLING TO PAY GOOD MONEY TO WATCH ANOTHER FIGHT.

BUT WOULD YOU LOOK AT THE EMPTY STADIUM WE HAVE HERE TONIGHT?

WIN THIS AND BROADCASTING COMPANIES WILL BE LINING UP FOR A CHANCE TO TELEVISE YOUR FIGHT FOR THE WORLD-TITLE.

THAT PLAYBOY'S THE ONLY THING STANDING BETWEEN YOU AND THE WORLD.

STAY FOCUSED OUT THERE.

THE BELL'S SET TO RING SHORTLY.

THE ONLY THING I'M AFRAID OF IS HIS DEVIL'S LUCK!

HAHA! JUST WATCH ME, COACH!

FOR THE WORLD-TITLE ITSELF...?

A FIGHT...

HEH HEH. THE WORLD CHAMPION...

HEH

RIVERA'S MOVEMENTS LOOK QUITE GOOD TONI-

OH?

AH-

AGHH-

AHHH...

ACK!

B-BACK TO YOUR CORNER!

OH MY LORD...

BRING A DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY!

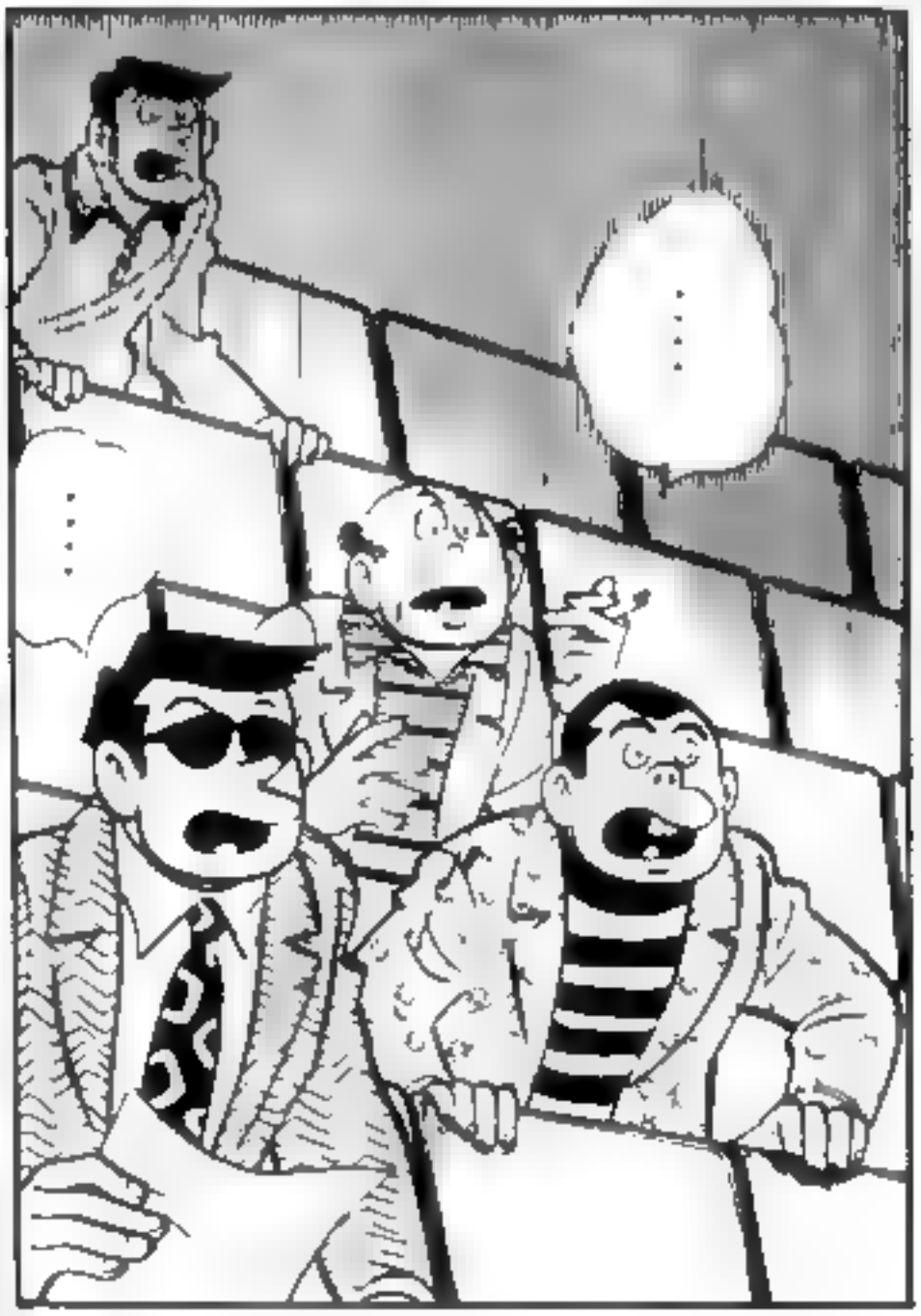
DOCTOR!

2...

1...

YEAH LET'S HEAD BACK HOME TO VENEZUELA, ROBERT.

WITH THAT, OUR JOB'S ALL DONE, CARLOS.



O-OH, RIGHT.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO RING THE BELL?
H-HEY, TIMEKEEPER.
PLEASE BE QUIET, SIR.
OZAKI.... HANG IN THERE...!
BRING THE STRETCHER!
R-RIGHT AWAY!

HEH HEH.

YOU FOUGHT FOR REAL TONIGHT SO SHOW THEM WHO YOU REALLY ARE, CARLOS!

UMM... MR. RIVERA!

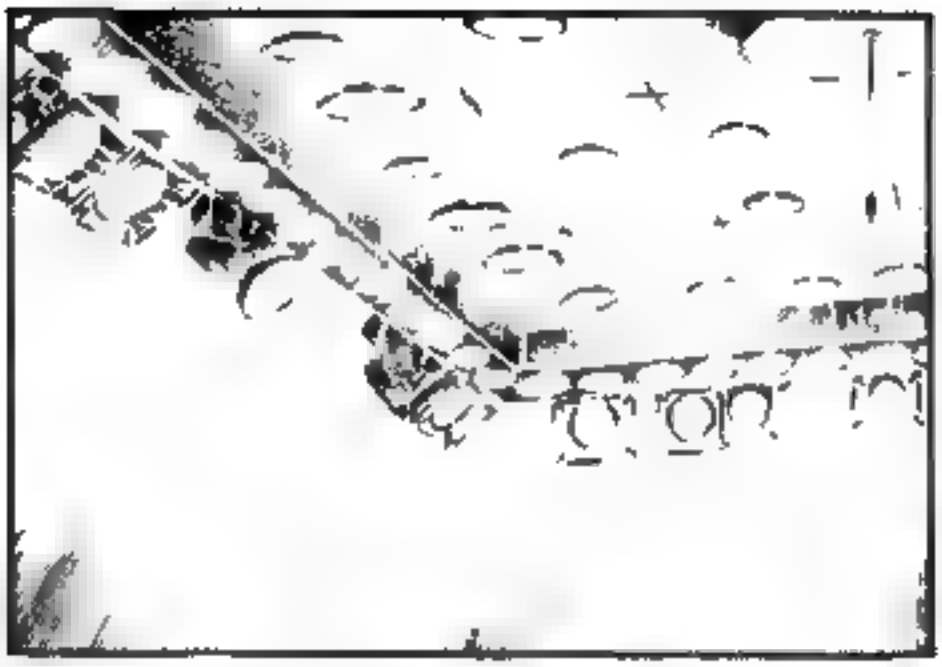
GO ON, THE REFEREE NEEDS TO RAISE YOUR ARM FOR THE WIN.

WE HAVE TO RAISE HIM ON TO THE STRETCHER SLOWLY!

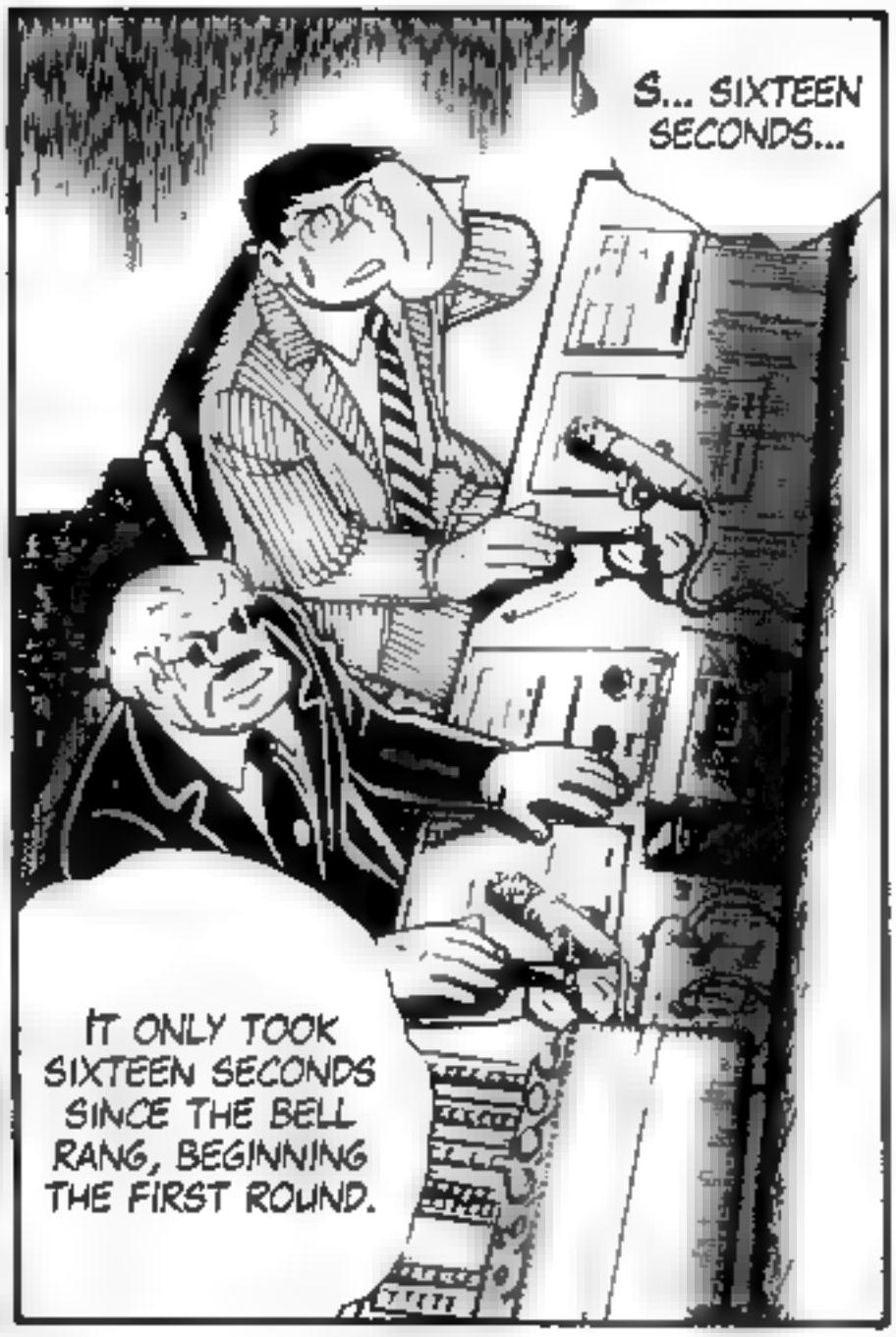
BE CAREFUL NOT TO MOVE HIS HEAD...

O-OZAKI...

UGH...



THAT SURELY RAISED THE HAIR AND FROZE THE BLOOD ICE-COLD OF ALL THOSE WHO WITNESSED IT!
A KO-WIN,
A PHENOMENAL FULFILLMENT OF HIS PREDICTION!

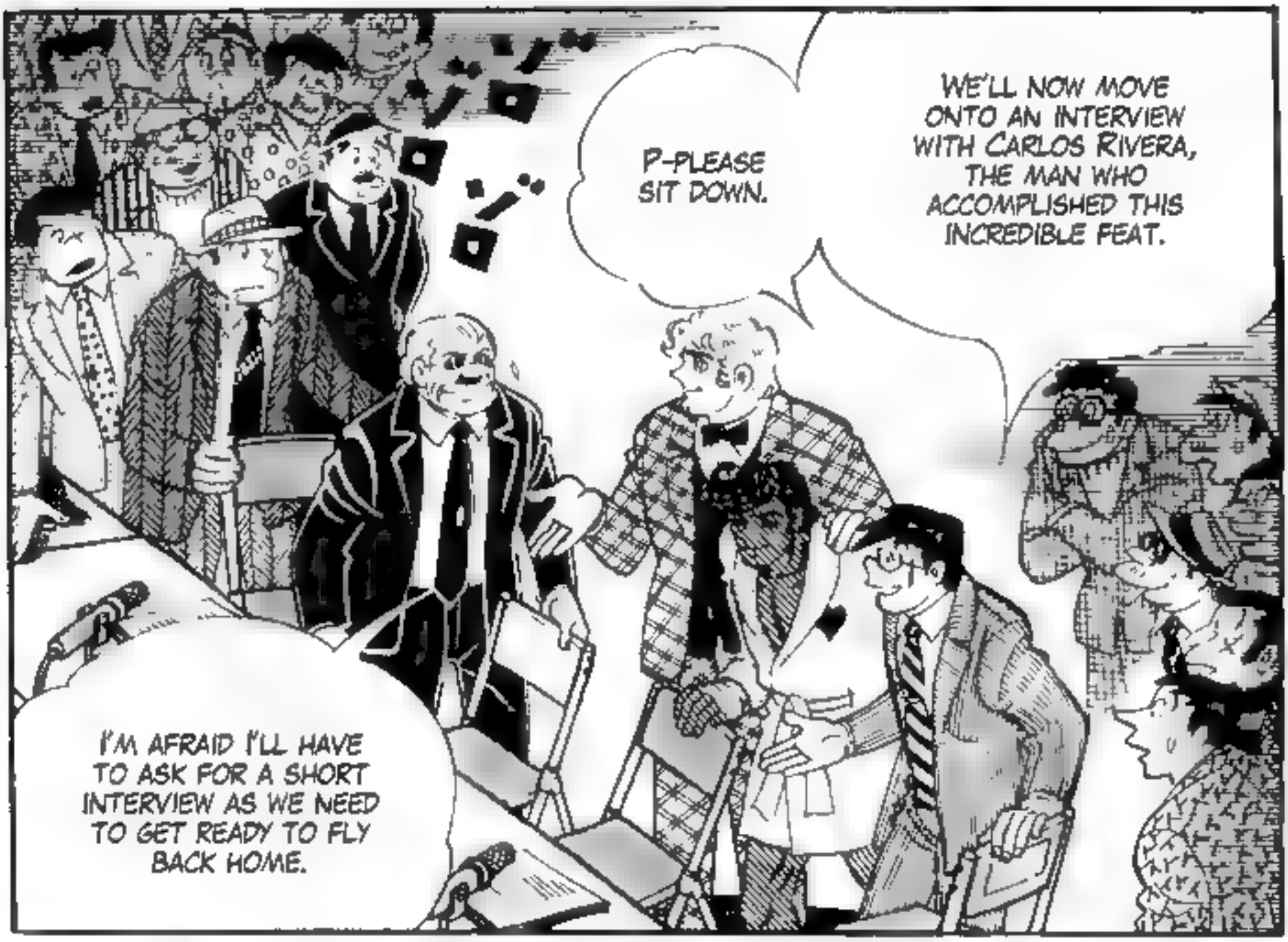

S... SIXTEEN SECONDS...
IT ONLY TOOK SIXTEEN SECONDS SINCE THE BELL RANG, BEGINNING THE FIRST ROUND.

KO-KO-KO

KO-KO-KO

KO-KO
NOT BAD, VENEZUELAN PANTHER!
WOULDN'T YOU ALL AGREE!?
KO-KO

W-WHO'S THAT?
YES, WHO IS THAT FELLOW MAKING A RUCKUS?
NOW THAT'S WHAT I EXPECT FROM A WORLD-RANKER!
BRAVO, BRAVO!
Q-QUIT IT, YOU IDIOT!
THE PREDICTION THAT NOBODY TOOK SERIOUSLY,
HAS BEEN FULFILLED BY A CHILLINGLY DEVASTATING RIGHT STRAIGHT...
ALRIGHT ...
COME ON, CARLOS.


P-PLEASE SIT DOWN.
WE'LL NOW MOVE ONTO AN INTERVIEW WITH CARLOS RIVERA, THE MAN WHO ACCOMPLISHED THIS INCREDIBLE FEAT.
I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO ASK FOR A SHORT INTERVIEW AS WE NEED TO GET READY TO FLY BACK HOME.

HEY LOOK...
DAMN...

HE'S STILL OUT COLD...

YEAH...

YOU LOOKED LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON OUT THERE TONIGHT...

IF YOU DON'T MIND ME ASKING,

THAT WAS TRULY A PUNCH TO REMEMBER.

W-WHAT CAN I SAY, REALLY...

WELL...

HOW SHOULD WE ANSWER, ROBERT?

LUCK?

HAHA.

WAS THAT PUNCH TOO ANOTHER INSTANCE OF YOUR LUCK?

I AND MANY OTHERS ARE STILL HAVING A HARD TIME GRASPING THE SITUATION SO I MUST ASK,

FEEL FREE TO SAY ANYTHING YOU WISH.

IT'S FINE, THE CURTAINS HAVE NOW FALLEN ON THIS PLAY.

WE STILL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THE REPUTATION OF OUR PROMOTER MS. YOUKO...

WAS THIS ALL STAGED OR SOMETHING?

W-WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT DOES SHE MEAN BY "PLAY"?

SO COULD I PERHAPS ASK YOU TO EXPLAIN, MS. YOUKO?

WELL EVEN SO, IT'S A LITTLE AWKWARD COMING FROM OUR OWN MOUTHS,

I SEE...

A 1ST ROUND KO IS NOTHING RIVERA CAN'T DO, AS LONG AS HE CHOOSES TO DO SO.

TO PUT IT SHORTLY, TONIGHT WAS THE FIRST TIME YOU ALL SAW CARLOS RIVERA'S TRUE POWER.

YOU SEE, NO MATTER WHICH COUNTRY WE GO TO, NOBODY IS WILLING TO FIGHT CARLOS ONCE THEY SEE HOW STRONG HE IS.

ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE FIGHTS AGAINST NANGOU AND HARAJIMA WERE...

T-THEN ...

CAN YOU UNDERSTAND HIS PLIGHT?

SO POOR CARLOS HERE HAD NO OPTION BUT TO INCORPORATE IN SOME ACTING SKILLS IN ORDER TO MAKE A LIVING.

IS FIGHT IN PINE-SCENTED RING,

THE ONLY THING I TRULY WANT,

AS BOXER, NOT ACTOR. EVEN ONCE IS FINE. ONE CHANCE TO SHOW ALL MY SKILLS AS BOXER.

SO I NO NEED OSCAR.

I'M NO ACTOR,

HAHA... ALWAYS THE JOKER, HE IS...

I WANT OPPONENT WHO CAN GIVE ME THIS!

THAT IS MY DREAM!

AHH...

MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD!

ENCORE! ENCORE!

SENDS A CHILL THROUGH MY BONES, IT DOES!

J-JOE! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

HEAR, HEAR!

THEM'S SOME FINE ACTING SKILLS!

BRILLIANT, I SAY!

HEH.

W-WHERE ARE YOU GOING, JOE!?

SO YOU MIND TELLING ME A LITTLE MORE ABOUT YOUR SCHEDULE?

YOU MENTIONED EARLIER ABOUT FLYING BACK HOME,

HE'S COMING THIS WAY.

W-WHAT'S WITH HIM?

IS HE TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT?

SCHEDULE?

LEAVING TOMORROW?

WHAT ABOUT IT?

HE'S SET TO FLY BACK TO VENEZUELA FROM HANEDA AIRPORT TOMORROW NIGHT.

THAT'S RIGHT! I WANT TO KNOW RIVERA'S SCHEDULE!

PLEASE DON'T INTERRUPT THE INTERV-

H-HEY! WE'RE ON LIVE YOU KNOW!

MOVE IT.

CAN'T YOU STAY A LITTLE WHILE LONGER IN JAPAN?

THAT'S NO GOOD...

WHADDYA SAY, CARLOS RIVERA?

ACK.

SHUT YOUR TRAP ALREADY.

. . . .

WELL?

SAY YOU'LL FIGHT ONE LAST MATCH WITH ME BEFORE FLYING BACK HOME.

I'M BEGGIN' YOU HERE.

FIGHTS SHOULD BE ARRANGED FORMALLY THROUGH A COMMISSIONER CONTACTING BOTH SIDES,

CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS!?

AND YET HERE YABUKI IS BEGGING FOR A FIGHT LIKE A LITTLE CHILD!

WON'T GIVE ME A NO FOR AN ANSWER, RIGHT?

I'M SURE EVEN YOUR MANAGER HERE,

IT'S FINE, ISN'T IT?

I AM ABSOLUTELY DUMBFOUNDED!

WHAT AN IDIOT.

IT'S AN OUTRAGE, THAT'S WHAT IT IS!

A DOWN-IN-THE-DUMPS BOXER WHO'S FALLEN TO FIGHTING IN UNLICENSED RINGS IS SERIOUSLY ASKING THE MAN WHO KO'D THE JAPANESE CHAMPION IN 16 SECONDS!? TALK ABOUT RIDICULOUS!

HAHA, YOU SAID IT ALRIGHT! TALK ABOUT CHILDISH!

SHUT THE HELL UP! STAY OUT OF THIS IF YOU'RE NOT EVEN INVOLVED!

AND WE'RE STARTING TO FEEL A LITTLE HOMESICK SO-

OUR CONTRACT WAS ONLY FOR 3 FIGHTS,

NO!

BUT WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY, ROBERT AND RIVERA?

THE FANS MIGHT DISAPPROVE,

WELL... HMM...

I SEE...

DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUM-STANCES, YOU SAY?

DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCE, I POSSIBLE LONGER STAY IN JAPAN.

I AM A PRO!

WELL CONSIDERING YABUKI'S RECENT HISTORY, AS OTHERS HAVE POINTED OUT JUST NOW, FIGHTING A FULL MATCH MIGHT BE TOO MUCH.

EVEN IF HE IS RANKED 6TH IN THE WORLD, THAT'S STILL WAY TOO MUCH FOR A MERE 4-ROUND EXHIBITION MATCH...

THAT'S... NEARLY 1.8 MILLION YEN! THAT'S ROUGHLY THE AMOUNT A BOXER WOULD GET FOR A PACIFIC TITLE-MATCH!

I'LL THROW IN ANOTHER $5000 ON TOP OF WHAT YOU'LL RECEIVE FOR THE OTHER 3 FIGHTS.

SO HOW ABOUT A 4-ROUND EXHIBITION MATCH?

F FIVE THOUSAND!?

I'M DOING THIS OUT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

NO WORRIES.

YOU BETTER SHAPE UP, YABUKI.

WELL, SINCE THE DEAL'S COMPLETE,

YES, YES, VERY GOOD.

WHAT DO YOU SAY, RIVERA? ARE YOU FINE WITH THAT?

AND TOYED WITH EACH OF THEM IN DIFFERENT WAYS,

CONSIDERING HOW YOU SPECIFICALLY PICKED THE 3 FIGHTERS I LOST TO AS RIVERA'S OPPONENTS,

BUT THEN AGAIN...

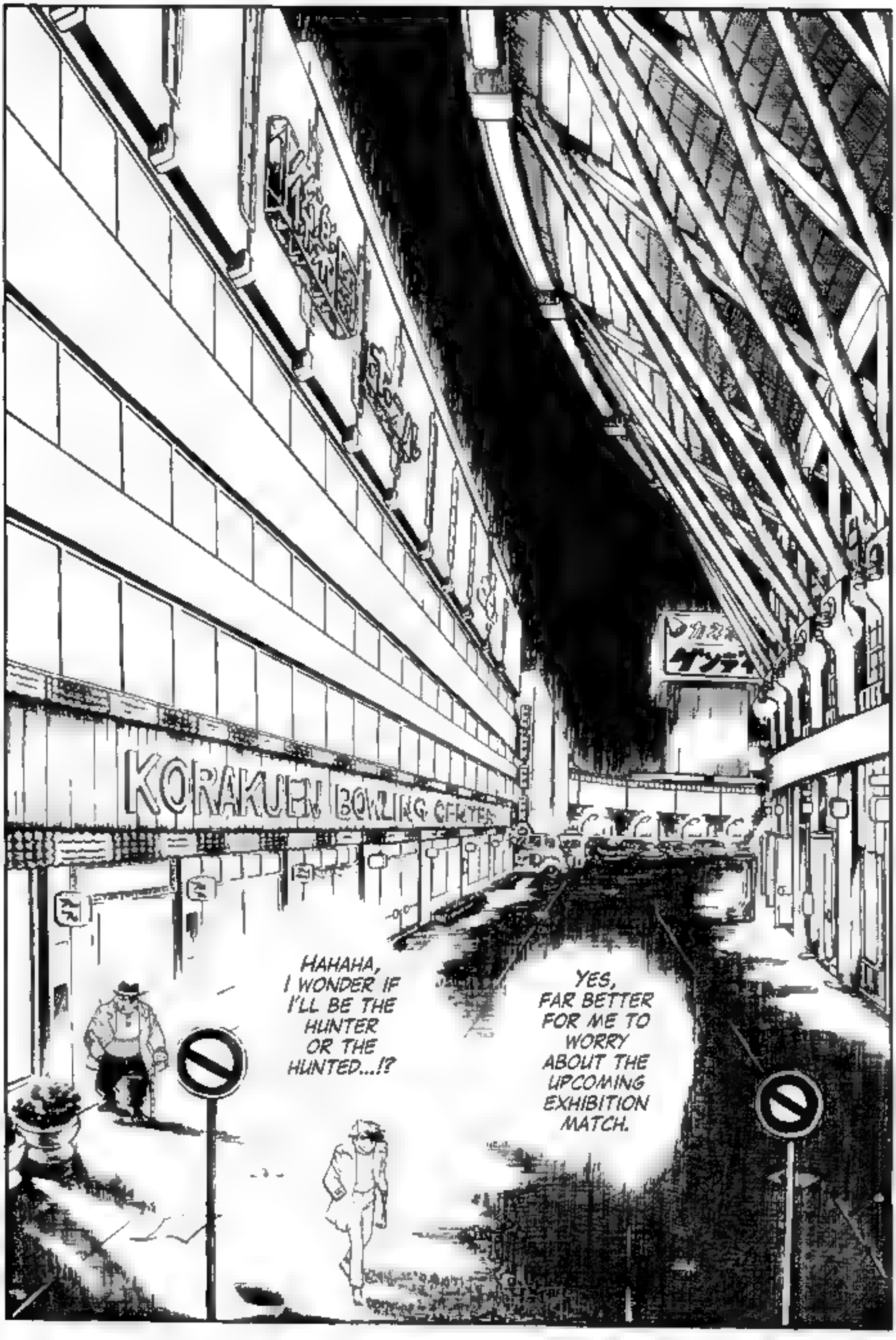
GUESS I'M IN YOUR DEBT, YOUKO...

I'M GETTING THE FEELING THAT YOU PLANNED FOR ALL OF THIS REGARDLESS OF WHAT I WANTED...

I'M BETTER OFF WORRYING ABOUT MY NEXT FIGHT.

IN ANY CASE, THE DIE IS CAST.

LET'S GO, OLD MAN...


KORAKUEN BOWLING CENTER
HAHAHA, I WONDER IF I'LL BE THE HUNTER OR THE HUNTED...!?
YES, FAR BETTER FOR ME TO WORRY ABOUT THE UPCOMING EXHIBITION MATCH.

円下拳闘クラブ
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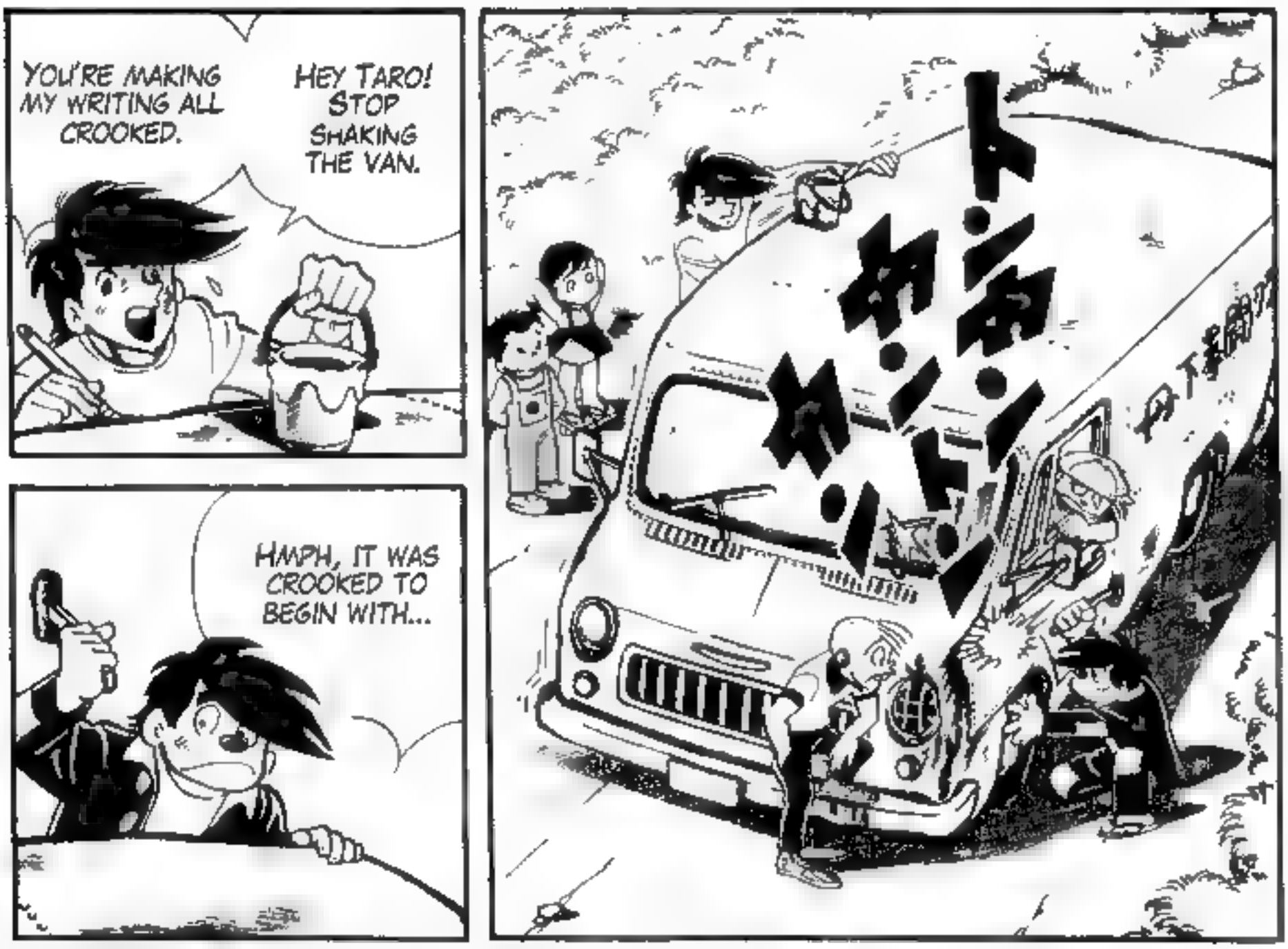

YOU'RE MAKING MY WRITING ALL CROOKED.
HEY TARO! STOP SHAKING THE VAN.
HMPH, IT WAS CROOKED TO BEGIN WITH...
丹下拳闘クラブ
I GUESS THIS IS WHAT PEOPLE MEAN BY CHICKEN SCRATCH.
OH WELL. HE DIDN'T GO TO SCHOOL SO HE CAN'T DO ANY BETTER.
HAHA. YEAH, YOUR WRITING'S ALL MESSY.
AHH...
AH-
AND WHAT HAPPENED TO WIPING THE WINDOWS!? GET TO IT!
HEY QUIET!

WHADDYA THINK?

HEH HEH, TAKE A LOOK! OUR GYM'S GOT ITS VERY OWN CAR AT LAST!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, JOE...

W-WHERE... DID YOU GET IT?

BUSINESS MUST BE GOING PRETTY GOOD FOR HIM IF HE CAN JUST GIVE AWAY A CAR LIKE THIS.

HAYASHI'S SHOP IS GETTING A NEW VAN SO THEY SAID THEY NO LONGER NEEDED THIS OLD ONE.

THE MAMMOTH GAVE IT.

WHAT ABOUT PRACTICE?

HOW ABOUT WE GO FOR A TEST DRIVE?

YOU REMEMBER WHO YOU'RE FIGHTING AGAINST?

THE TWO OTHERS ARE DRENCHED IN SWEAT FROM TRAINING.

THIS IS THE 3RD SHIRT TODAY I'M GOING THROUGH.

I'VE DONE ENOUGH.

...

CARLOS RIVERA IN A 4-ROUND EXHIBITION MATCH, DUH.

WHO I'M FIGHTING AGAINST?

AND YOU THINK GOING THROUGH JUST 3 SHIRTS IS ENOUGH TO PREPARE FOR RIVERA?

YEAH! YOU PROMISED US TO TAKE US FOR A DRIVE IF WE HELPED YOU FIX UP THE CAR!

WAIT, WHAT!? THAT'S NOT FAIR!

ALRIGHT KIDS. SEEMS LIKE THE OLD MAN'S NOT IN THE MOOD SO YOU BETTER RUN ALONG BACK HOME.

FINE...

HE DOESN'T HAVE THE TIME TO SPEND WITH YOU LITTLE BRATS!

JOE NEEDS TO PRACTICE FOR A LIFE-OR-DEATH MATCH!

GO HOME!

ACK...

AND TELLING THAT IT'S A LIFE-OR-DEATH FIGHT? HEH...

NO NEED TO LOSE YOUR TEMPER AT A BUNCH OF KIDS.

YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU DON'T THINK OF IT THAT WAY?

MORE THAN YOU, I BET.

OH I DO.

THEN WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU WASTING TIME WITH THOSE BRATS FOR!?

IF YOU GOT FREE TIME, USE IT TO HIT THE SANDBAG AGAIN!

HOW'RE MY MOVE-MENTS...?

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

WHERE TO?

I'LL BE OUT FOR A SHORT WHILE.

DECENT

NOT BAD, BUT NOT VERY GOOD EITHER.

IT MIGHT ONLY BE AN EXHIBITION MATCH, BUT THERE'RE STILL PAPERS TO SIGN,

AND OTHER THINGS TO GO OVER AND DECIDE BEFORE THE FIGHT.

KEEP PRACTICING.

I'LL BE BACK SOON.

SHIRAKI GYM, HUH...

YEAH, YEAH, I GET YOU.

AND WHAT ABOUT PRACTICE!?

I'M GOING WITH YA.

I NEED TO GO OUTSIDE AND GET A BREATHER EVERY NOW AND THEN.

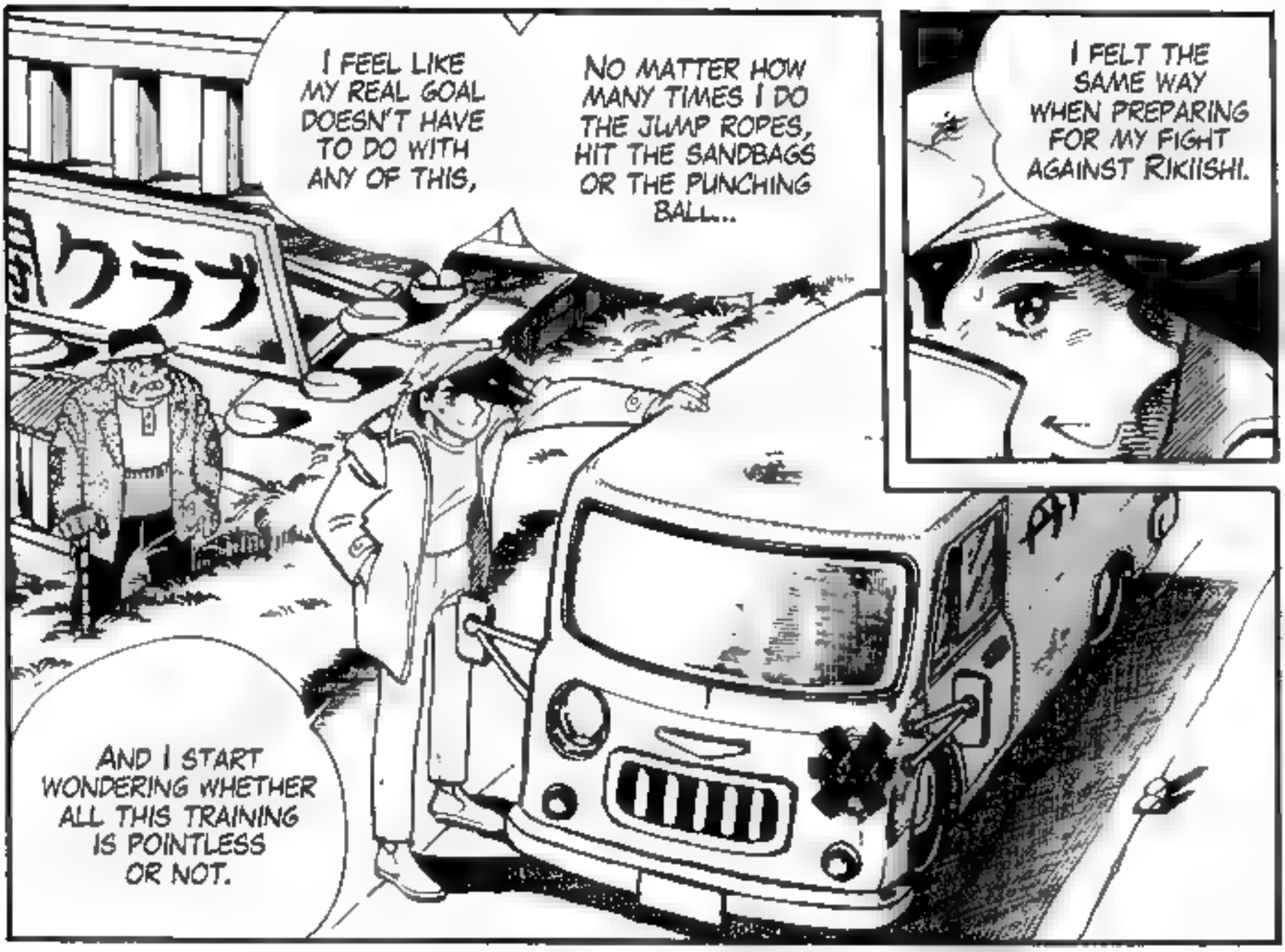
BUT MY HEAD'LL GO CRAZY IF I STAY COOPED UP IN THIS SHACK ALL DAY PRACTICING.

ON THE NIGHT YOU CHALLENGED RIVERA TO A FIGHT!?

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THAT SERIOUS DETERMINATION YOU SHOWED,

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?

HAHA... THIS IS JUST HOW I GET WHEN I FEEL PRESSURED...


I FEEL LIKE MY REAL GOAL DOESN'T HAVE TO DO WITH ANY OF THIS,
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I DO THE JUMP ROPES, HIT THE SANDBAGS OR THE PUNCHING BALL...
I FELT THE SAME WAY WHEN PREPARING FOR MY FIGHT AGAINST RIKIISHI.
AND I START WONDERING WHETHER ALL THIS TRAINING IS POINTLESS OR NOT.

SO I WANT TO GO OVER AND CHECK THAT OUT TOO.
I HEAR CARLOS IS HAVING A PUBLIC SPARRING SESSION AT SHIRAKI GYM TONIGHT.
IN any CASE,
FOR NO REAL GAINS.
MAYBE ALL I'M DOING IS SWEATING AND TIRING MYSELF,
N-NO! WHAT IF YOU CAUSE AN ACCIDENT!?
LICENSE SCHLICENSE. I KNOW PLENTY ENOUGH ABOUT HOW TO DRIVE.
B-BUT YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A LICENSE...
AND SINCE WE GOT A CAR, WE MIGHT AS WELL, Y'KNOW? C'MON, I'LL DRIVE.

I WISH I COULD SPEED THIS HUNK OF JUNK UP FAST ENOUGH TO CAUSE AN ACCIDENT...

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SO IF RIVERA'S HOLDING A PUBLIC SPARRING SESSION, YOU CAN BET COACHES AND GYM OWNERS ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY WILL COME TO SEE HIM.

NOT SURPRISING. CARLOS RIVERA'S BEEN THE CENTER OF ATTENTION EVER SINCE HE BEAT TIGER OZAKI WITH A SINGLE PUNCH.

OH...

THIS PLACE IS PACKED FULL OF CARS.

OH WHAT?

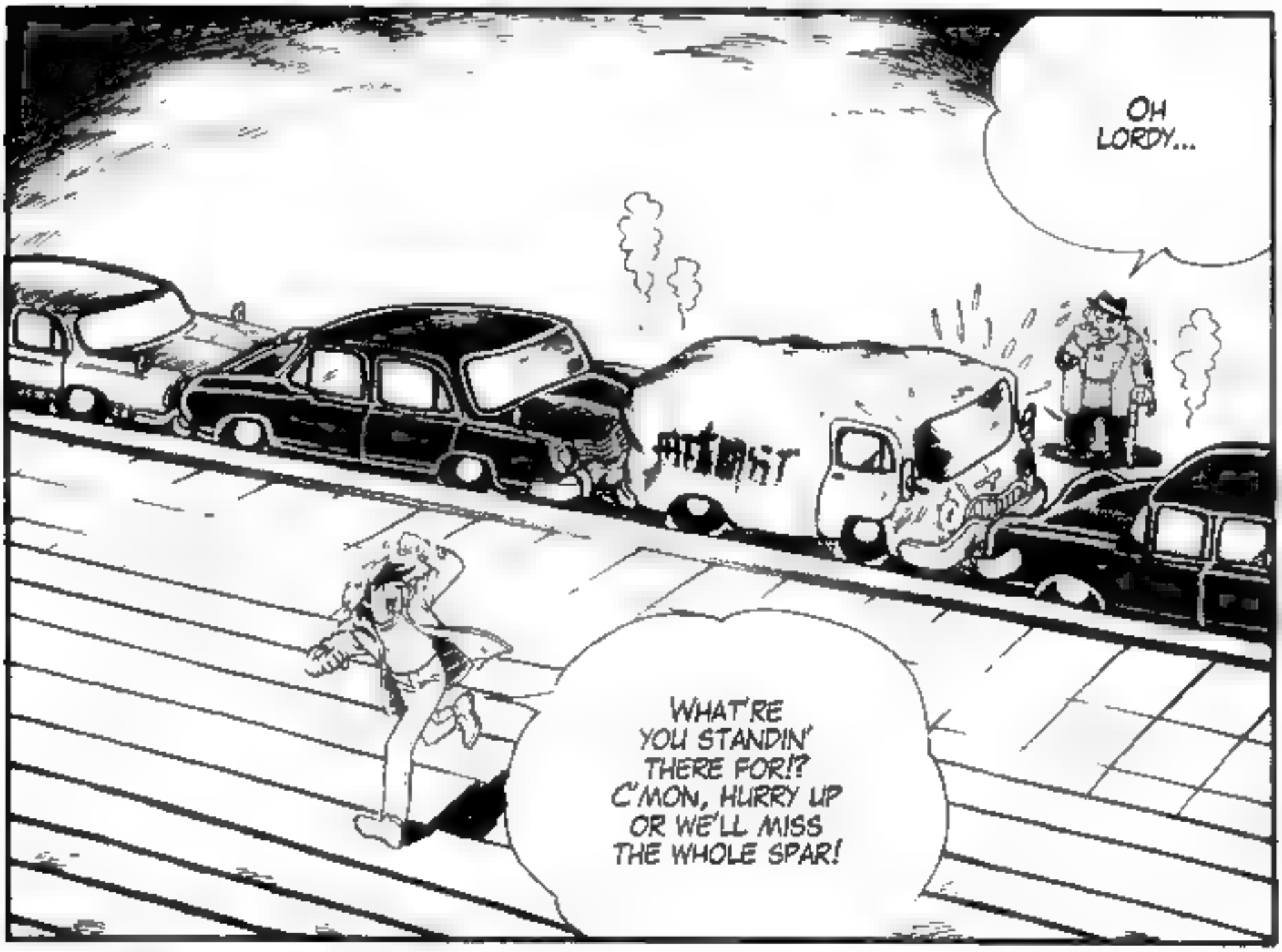
AH, I FOUND ONE!

I DON'T REALLY CARE EITHER WAY BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND ANY PARKING SPACES.

AGHH!

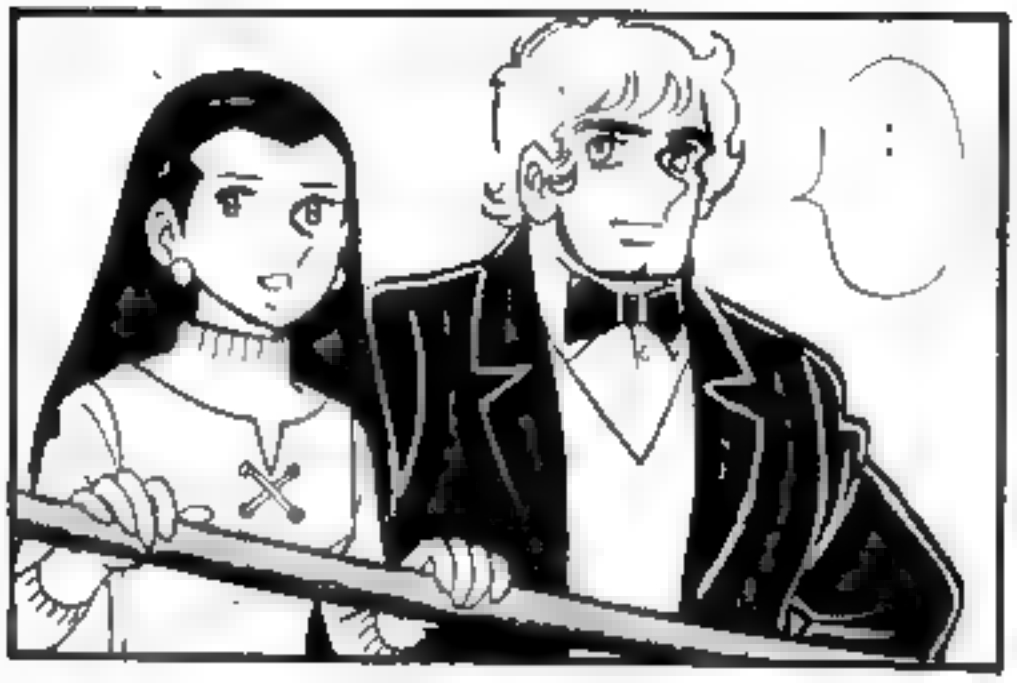
I-ISN'T THAT A LITTLE TOO SMALL?

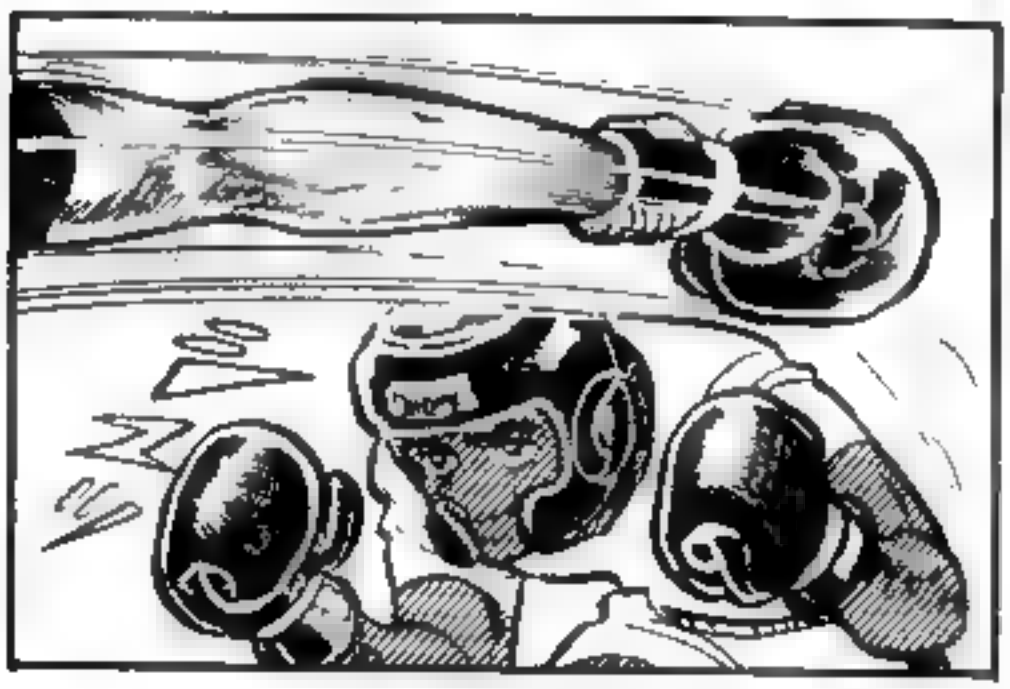
DON'T SWEAT IT.


OH LORDY...
WHAT'RE YOU STANDIN' THERE FOR!? C'MON, HURRY UP OR WE'LL MISS THE WHOLE SPAR!

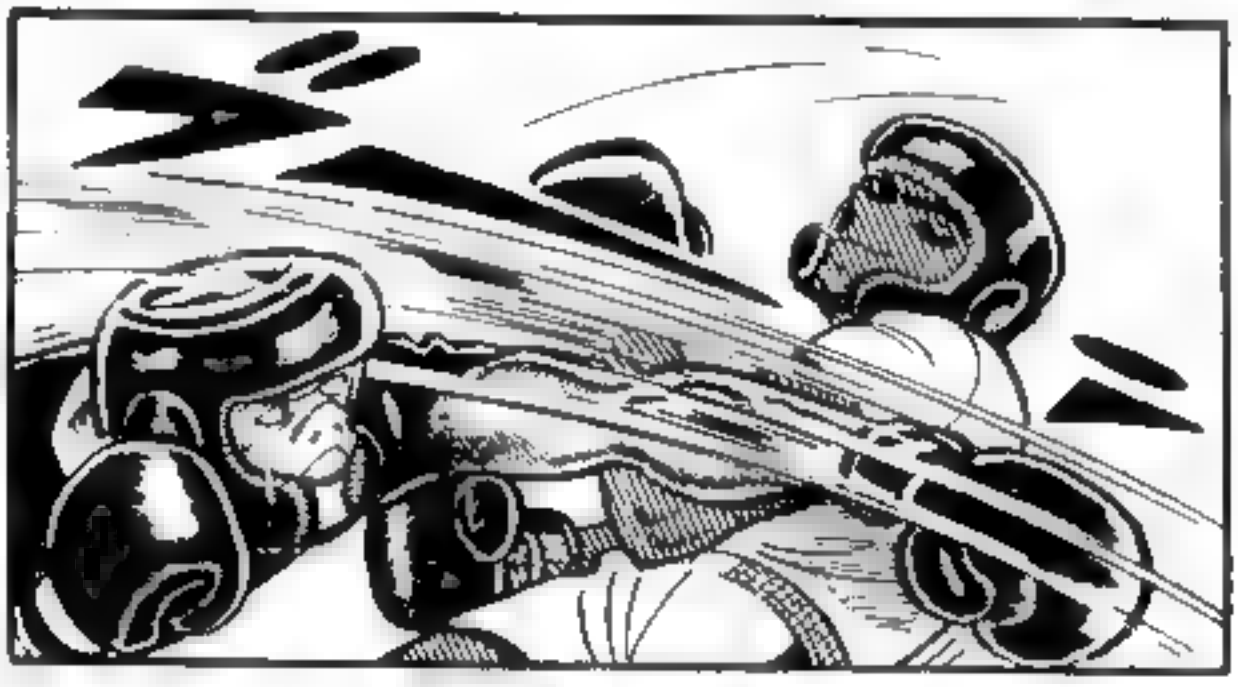
SWEET, JUST IN TIME.

G-GOOD EVENING...
H-HOW'VE YOU ALL BEEN...? HAHA... HA...





EXCUSE US THEN.
OH HI... GOOD TO SEE YOU HERE TOO...



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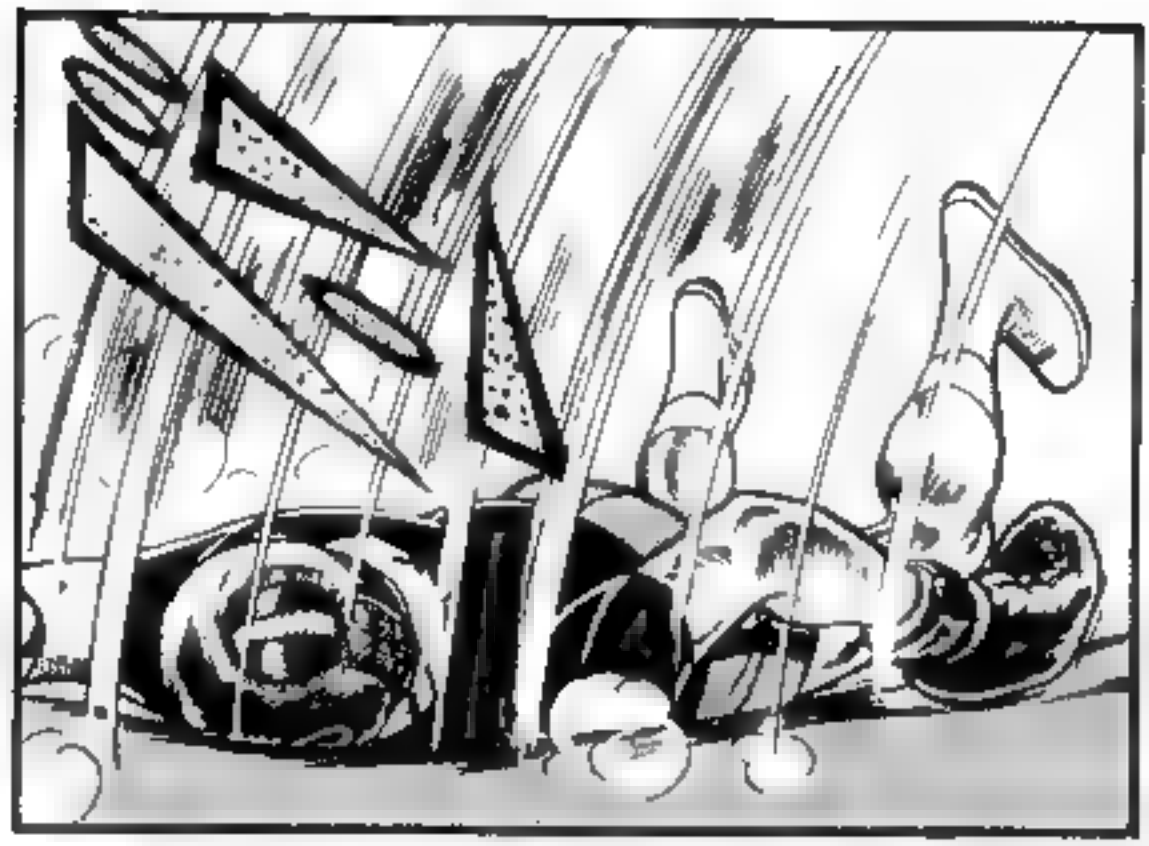
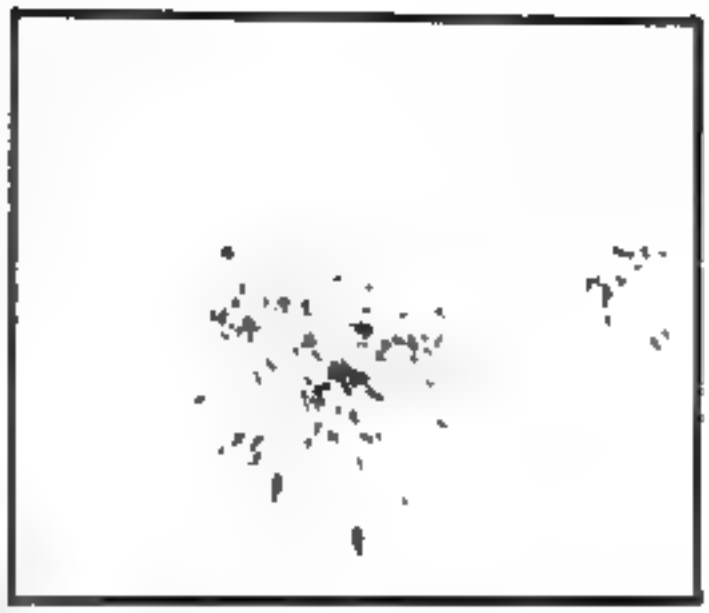
OHH...

AHH...

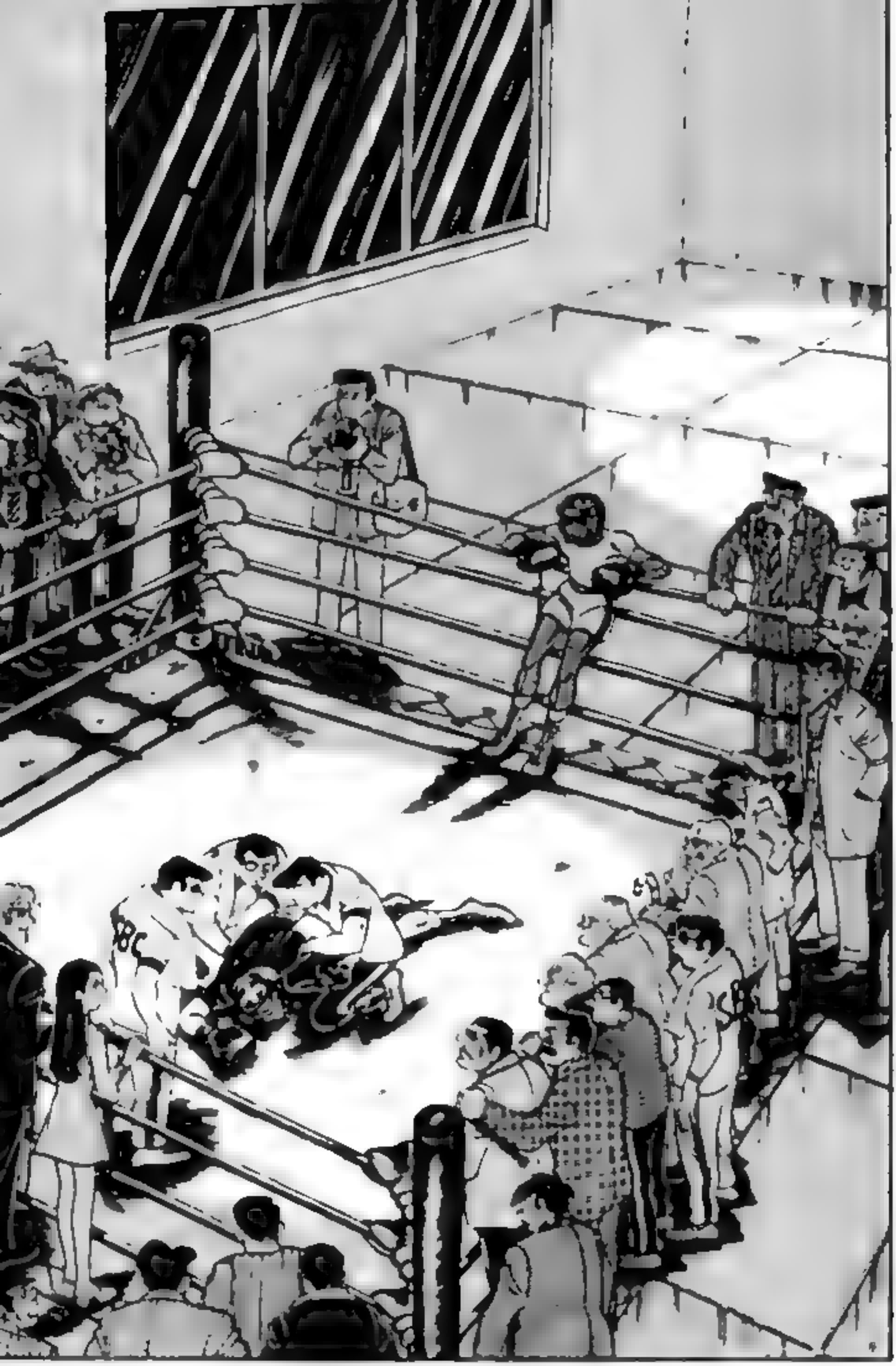




CARLOS...

HE TURNED SERIOUS ALL OF A SUDDEN.
W-WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO CARLOS?
AHH!

¡VAMOS!
NEXT!



COMPLETELY OUT COLD...

H-HE'S DONE...

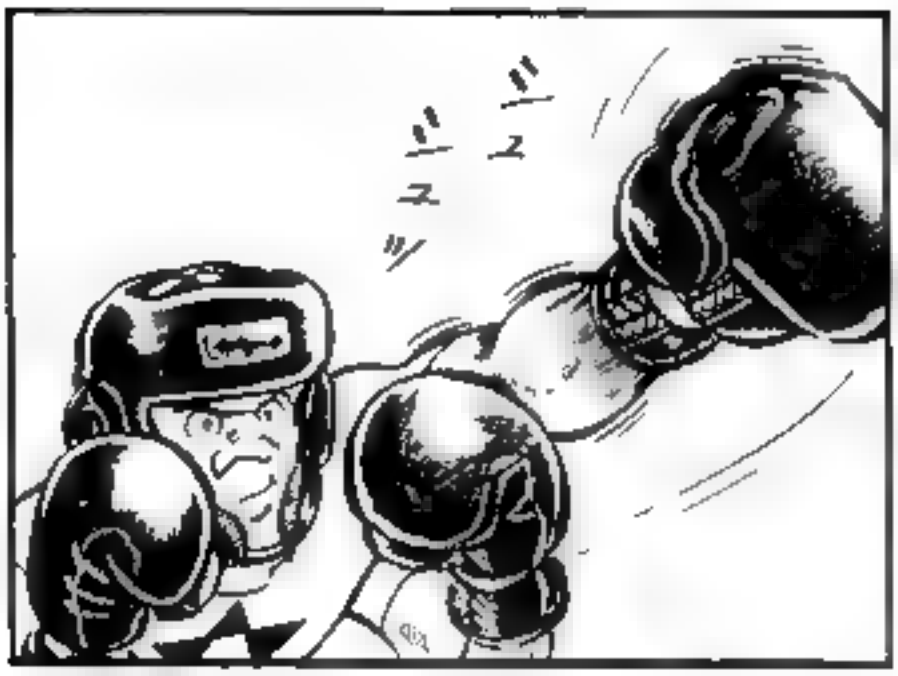
HERE'S YOUR MOUTH GUARD.

R-RIGHT...

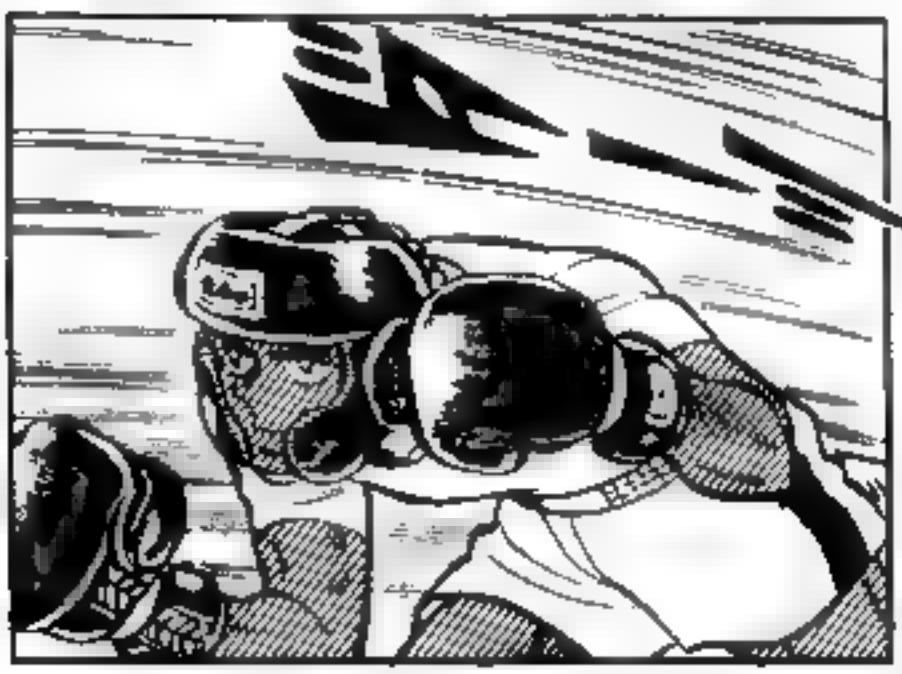
I SAY GIVE NEW PARTNER QUICK!

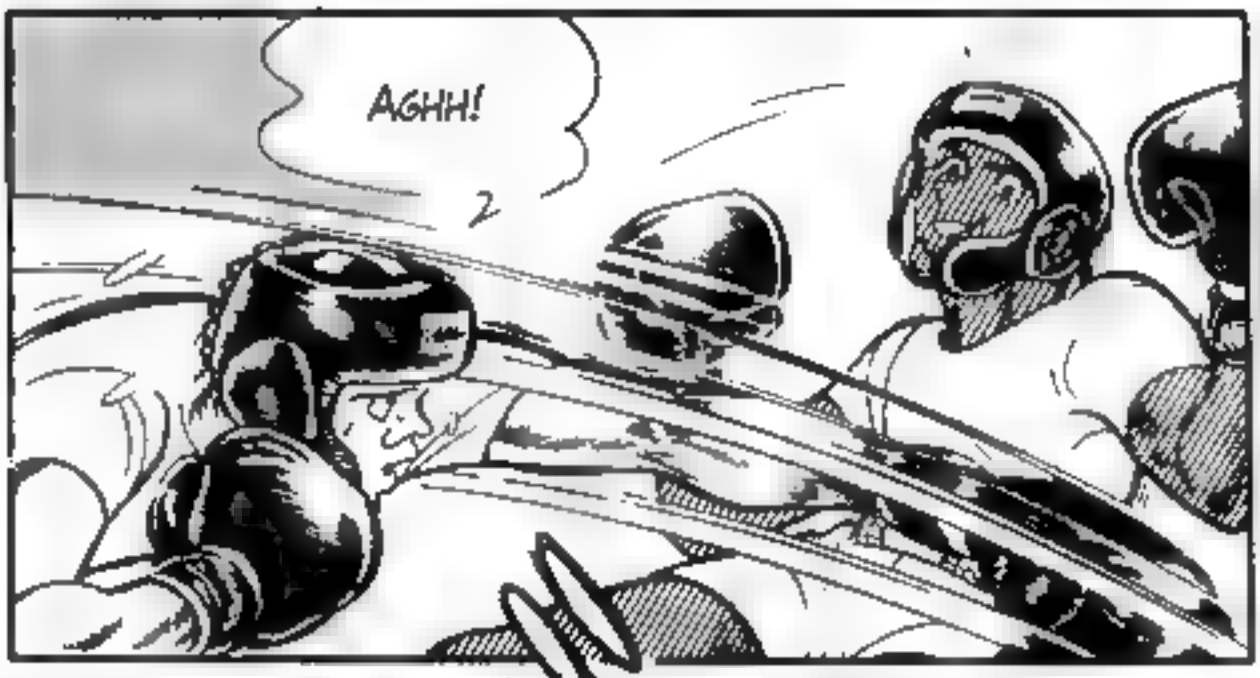
¡POR FAVOR!

NEXT!



H-HI THERE...




AGHH!

AH-

HEH.

UGH...
AGHHH...

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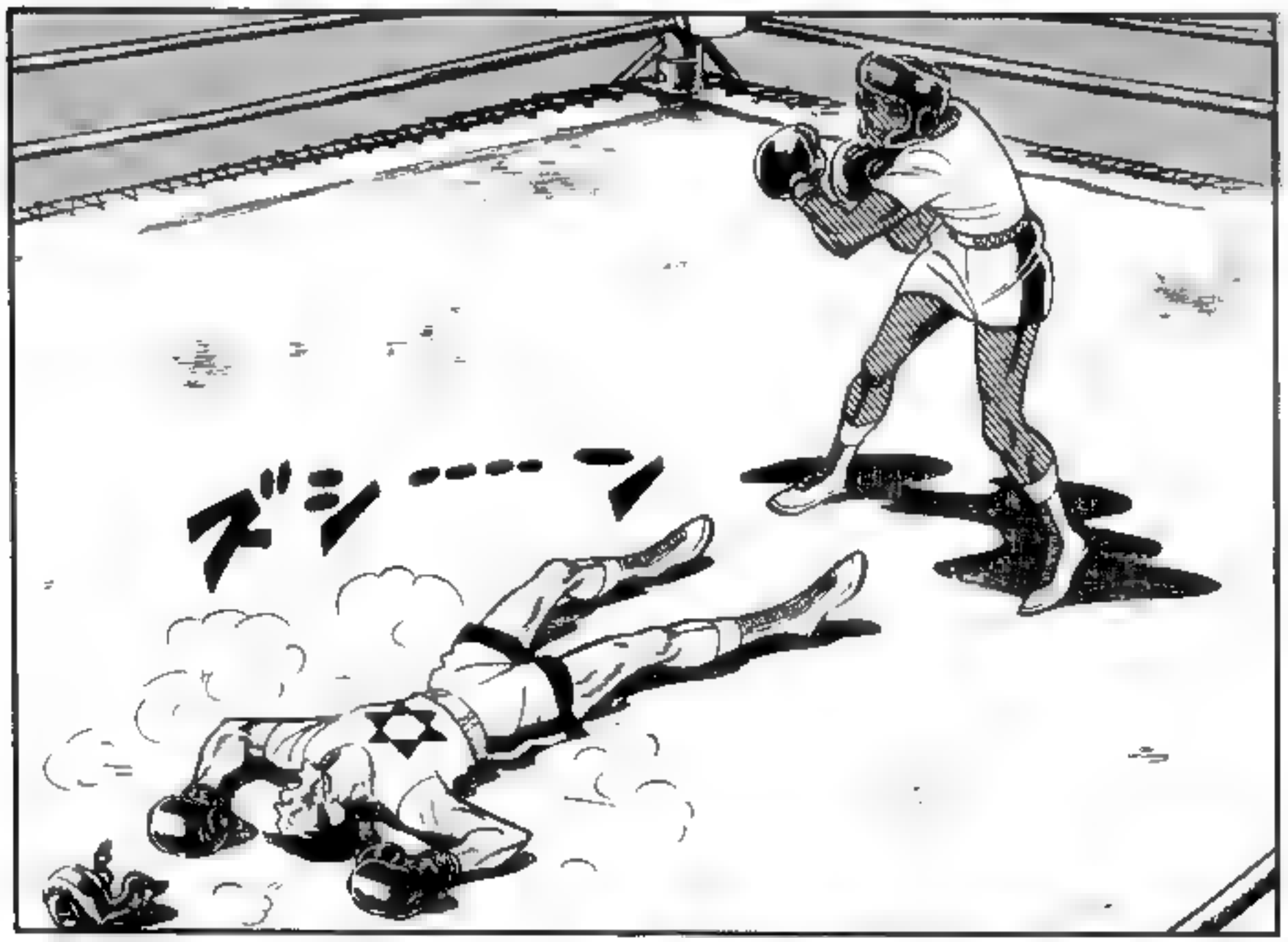
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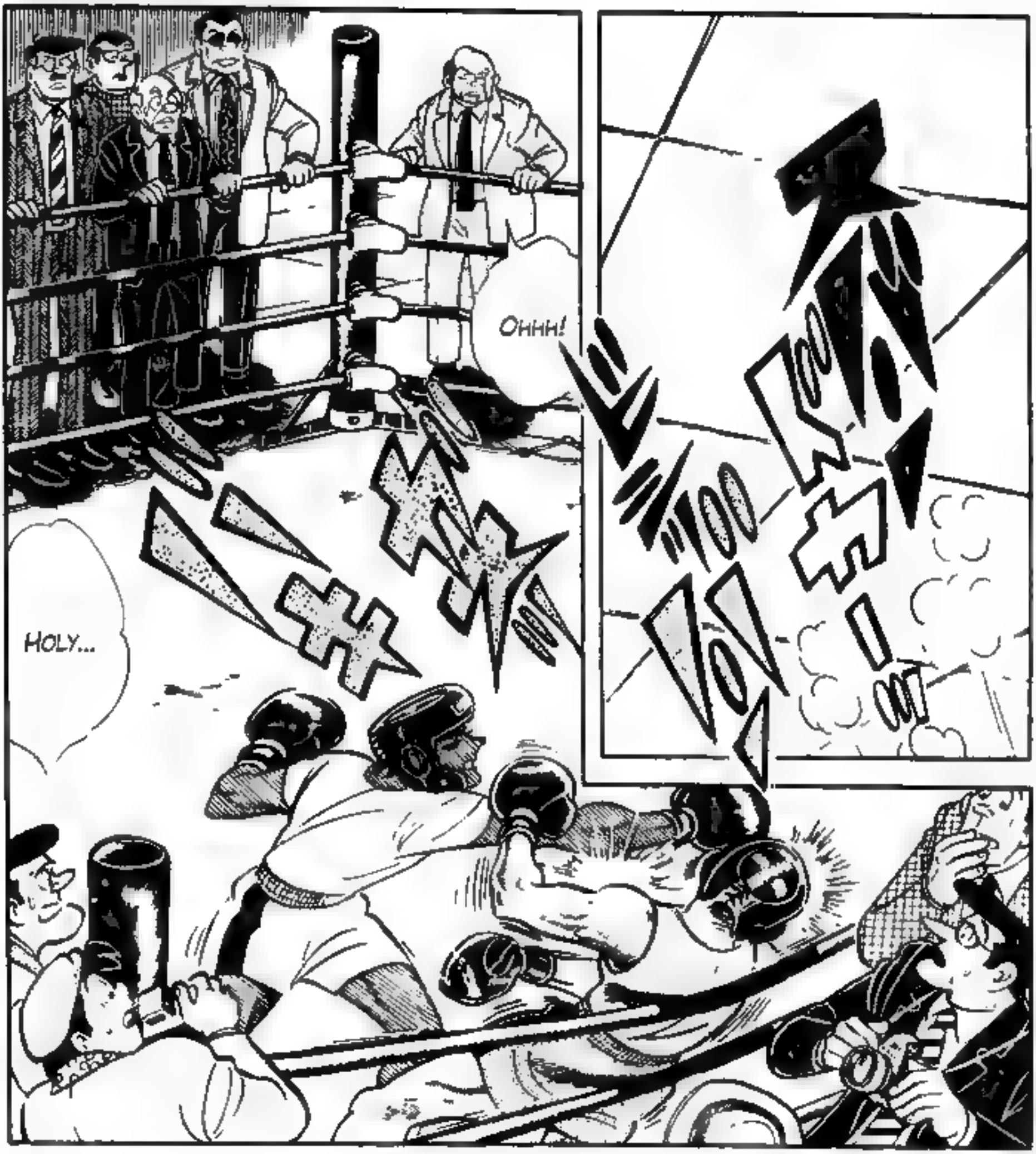
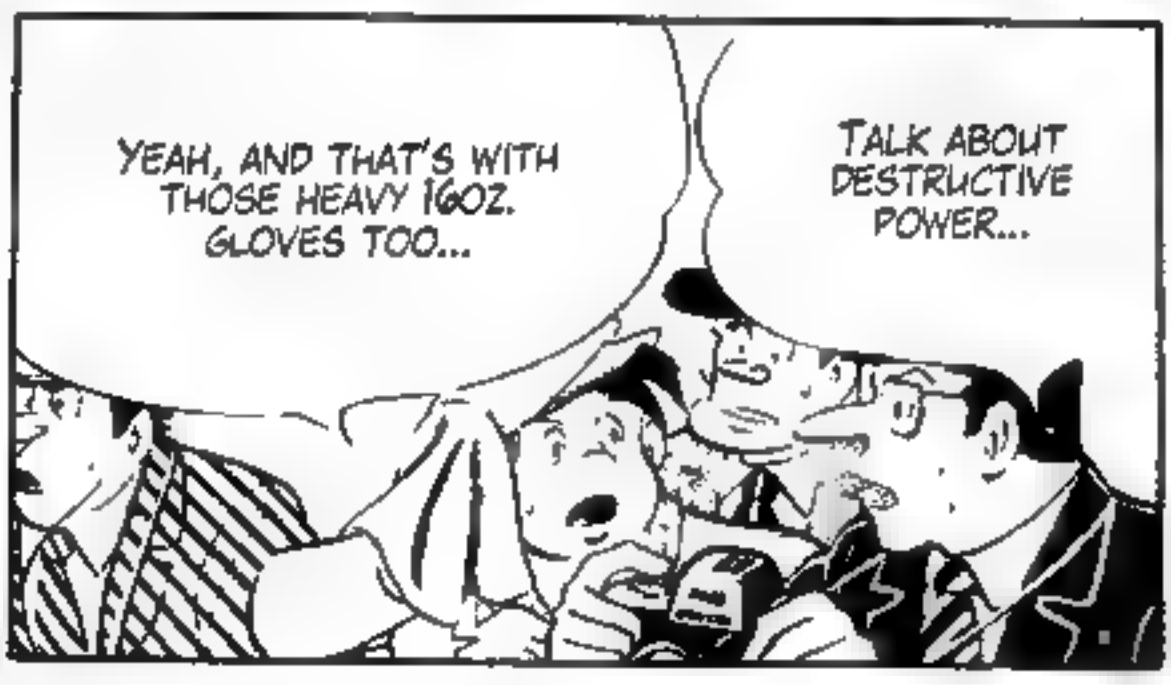
HUFF
HUFF
NEXT!


OHHH!
HOLY...

NOW I UNDERSTAND HOW HE GOT ALL THOSE NICKNAMES LIKE "VENEZUELA'S TERROR" OR THE "UNCROWNED EMPEROR".


YEAH, AND THAT'S WITH THOSE HEAVY 16OZ. GLOVES TOO...
TALK ABOUT DESTRUCTIVE POWER...

NEXT!

I CAN'T FIGHT HIM...

N-NO...

PLEASE! DON'T MAKE ME FIGHT HIM!

THE NEXT SPARRING PARTNER'S SCARED OUT OF HIS WITS ALREADY.

LOOK,

PERHAPS IT'D BE BETTER TO SEND IN A PERSON TWO WEIGHT CLASSES ABOVE?

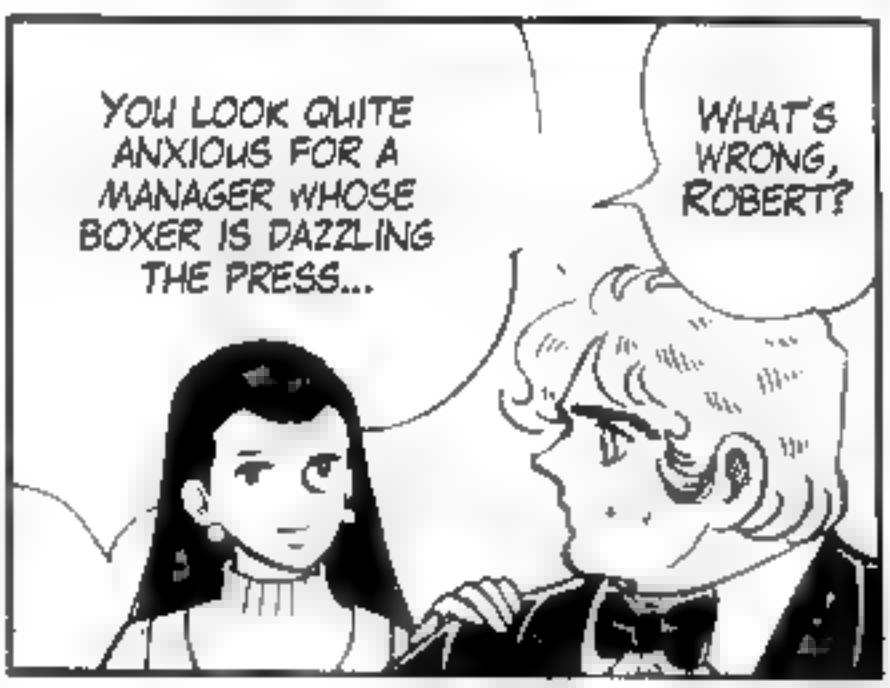
THE DIFFERENCE IN WEIGHT WILL BE COUNTERED BY THE DIFFERENCE IN SKILL.

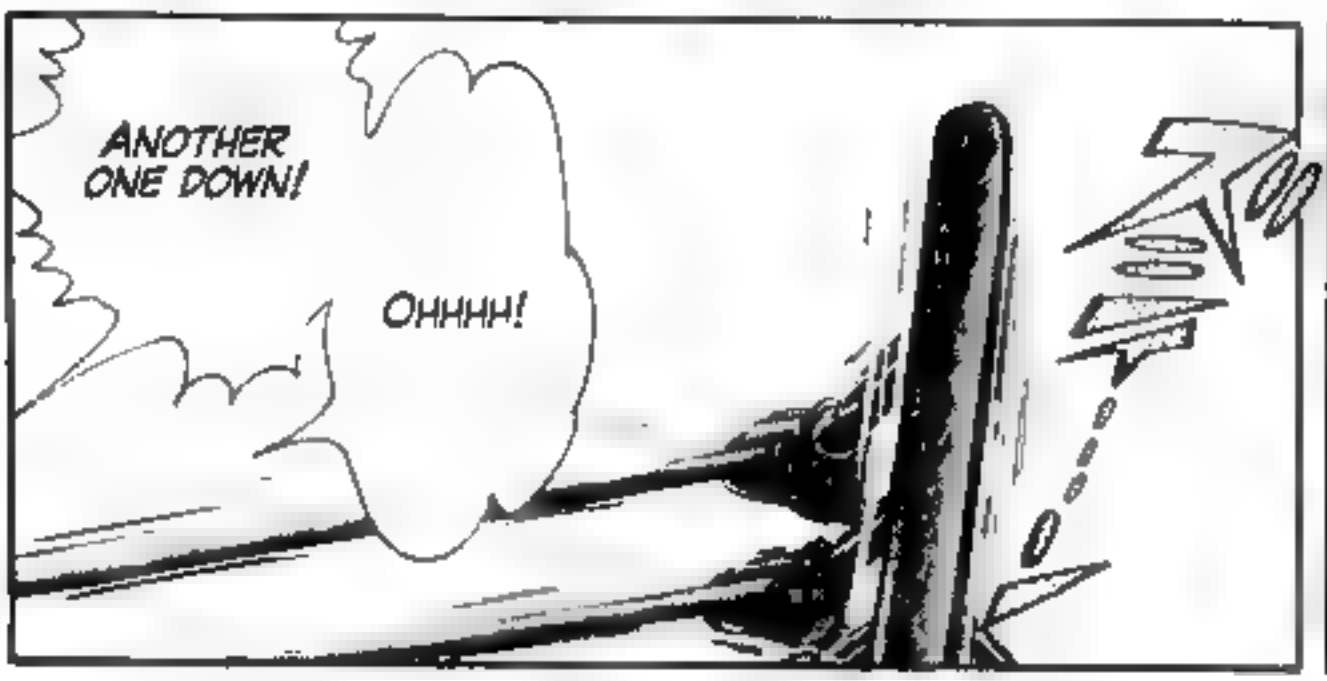
THERE'S NO NEED TO SEND IN A PERSON WHO DOESN'T WANT TO FIGHT...

OH MY...

OH I WONDER ABOUT THAT... CONSIDERING CARLOS' SPECIALTY OF SNEAKING IN AN ILLEGAL ELBOW BLOW ALONG WITH HIS PUNCHES,
HMM,
I DOUBT EVEN A LIGHTWEIGHT, WELTERWEIGHT, OR EVEN A MIDDLEWEIGHT WILL BE ABLE TO STAND UP TO HIM.

I'M VERY PROUD OF CARLOS!
YOU'RE MISTAKEN.
N-NO,


YOU LOOK QUITE ANXIOUS FOR A MANAGER WHOSE BOXER IS DAZZLING THE PRESS...
WHAT'S WRONG, ROBERT?


ANOTHER ONE DOWN!
OHHHH!

¡PELEA!

WHERE YOUR FAMOUS JAPANESE SPIRIT!?

HUFF

HUFF

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¡LEVÁNTATE!

HUFF

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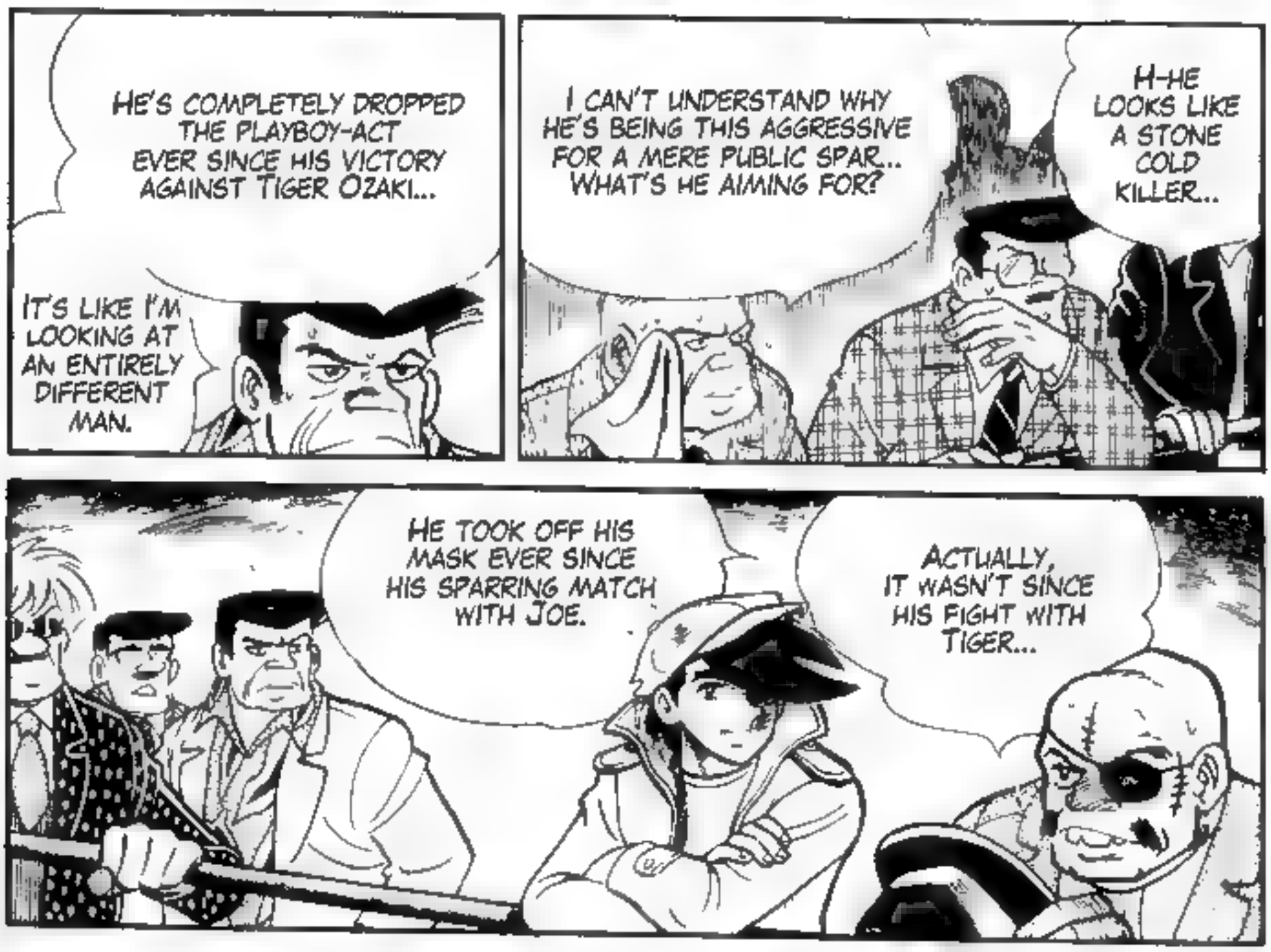
D... DAMN IT...

HUFF


HE'S COMPLETELY DROPPED THE PLAYBOY-ACT EVER SINCE HIS VICTORY AGAINST TIGER OZAKI...
IT'S LIKE I'M LOOKING AT AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MAN.
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE'S BEING THIS AGGRESSIVE FOR A MERE PUBLIC SPAR... WHAT'S HE AIMING FOR?
H-HE LOOKS LIKE A STONE COLD KILLER...
HE TOOK OFF HIS MASK EVER SINCE HIS SPARRING MATCH WITH JOE.
ACTUALLY, IT WASN'T SINCE HIS FIGHT WITH TIGER...

ACCORDING TO SOME RUMOURS, HE'S FINALLY GONNA CHALLENGE THE WORLD CHAMPION TO A TITLE-MATCH ONCE HE RETURNS HOME...

THAT EXHIBITION'S NOTHING BUT CHILD'S PLAY FOR HIM. HE'S ONLY DOING IT TO KILL SOME TIME.

DON'T BE STUPID!

WHAT? YOU MEAN TO TELL ME HE'S ACTUALLY THIS FIRED UP JUST FOR SOME LOUSY 4-ROUND EXHIBITION MATCH WITH YABUKI JOE?

HE'S QUITE CLEARLY FOCUSING ON JOE ALONE.

NO,

BOTH THE PUBLIC SPARRING TODAY AND THE UPCOMING EXHIBITION MATCH WITH JOE ARE JUST WAYS FOR HIM TO KEEP HIS BODY WARMED UP BEFORE HE CHALLENGES FOR THE WORLD-TITLE!

YES, THAT MUST BE IT!

STOP THE POINTLESS CHATTER, OLD MAN.

HE CAN CLEARLY SEE JOE'S TRUE S-

CARLOS IS FIGHTING SO VIGOROUSLY EVEN IN A SPAR *BECAUSE* HE RECOGNIZES JOE AS A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT.

¡CARLOS, DIJE QUE TE DETENGAS!

STOP!

¡BASTA!

NOW THEN...

I WOULDN'T WANT MY GYM BEING REDUCED TO NOTHING BUT AN OLD STORAGE FOR BROKEN FIGHTERS.

LET'S CALL IT AN END FOR TODAY.

IT SEEMS EVEN A LIGHTWEIGHT CAN'T HOLD HIS GROUND...

THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY BUT MY BOXERS WOULD NOW LIKE SOME PRIVACY...

THAT'S ALL FOR THE PUBLIC SPARRING SESSION TODAY, GENTLEMEN.

WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO WHILE I'M GONE, JOE?

I'LL JUST LOITER AROUND HERE FOR A BIT...

ME?

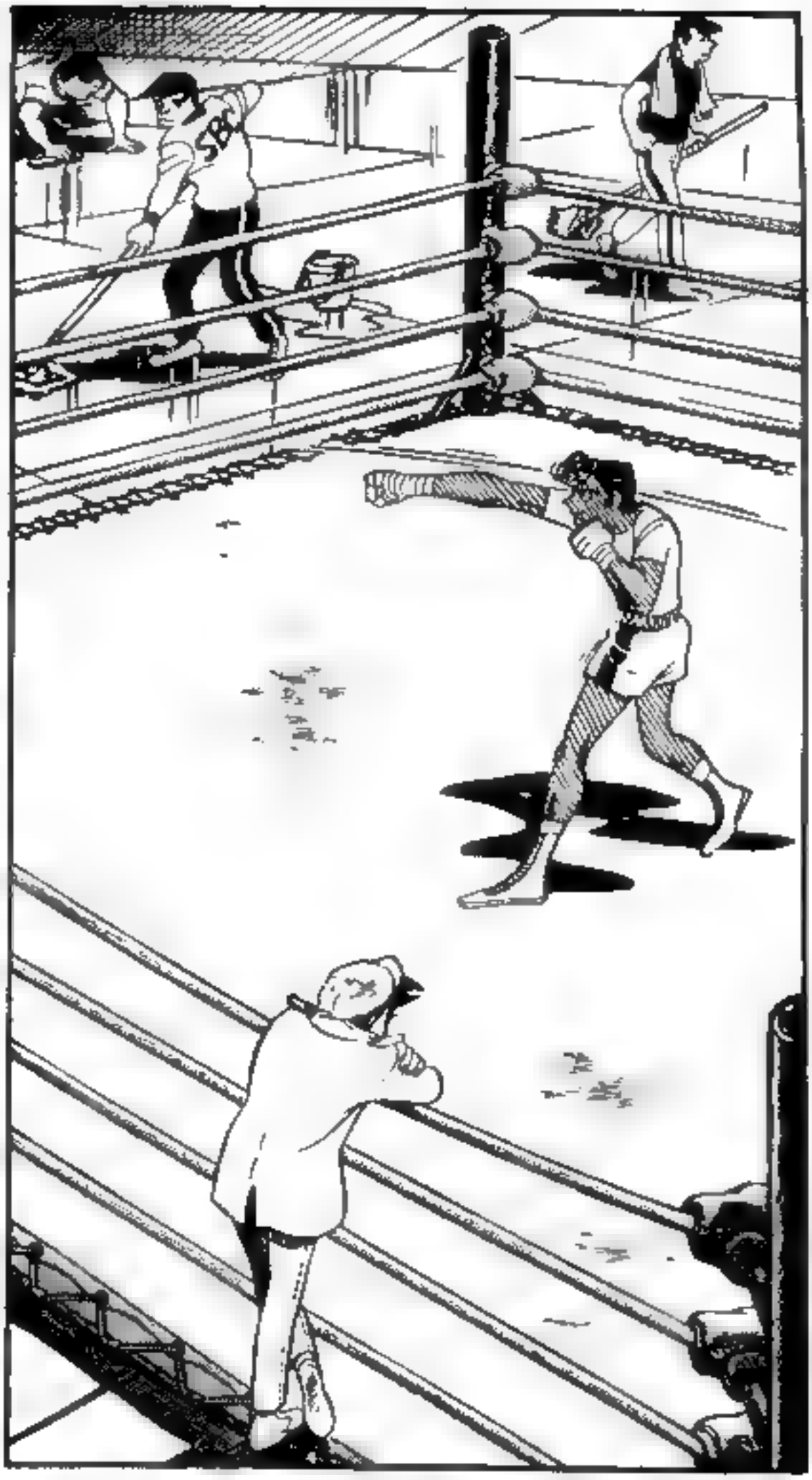
WOULD YOU MIND COMING TO MY OFFICE TO DISCUSS THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE UPCOMING MATCH?

OF COURSE.

OH THAT'S RIGHT, MR. TANGE.

PLEASE GO TAKE A SHOWER SO I CAN GIVE YOU YOUR MASSAGE.
MR. RIVERA,

IN A BIT. I TRAIN LITTLE LONGER.



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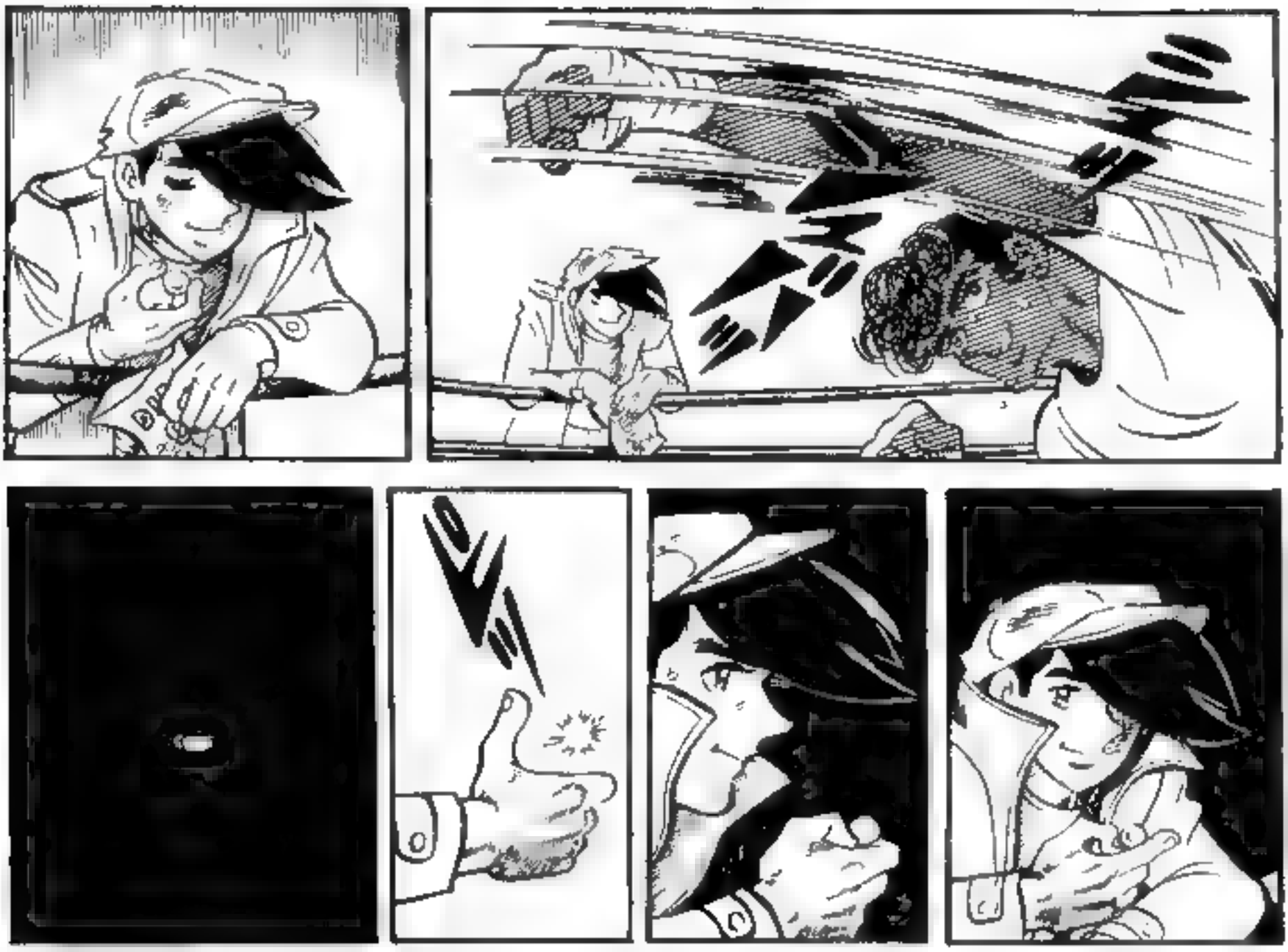

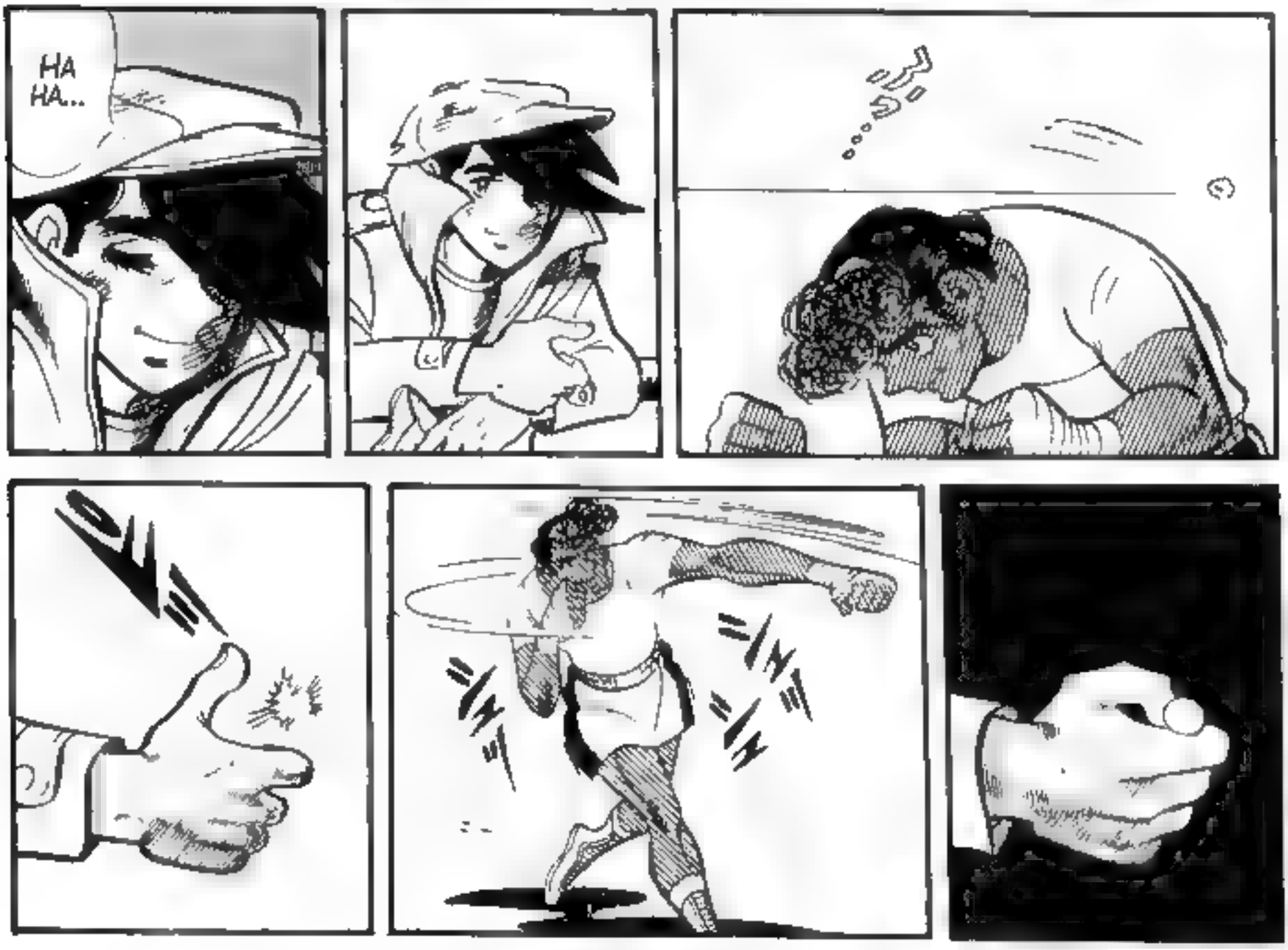
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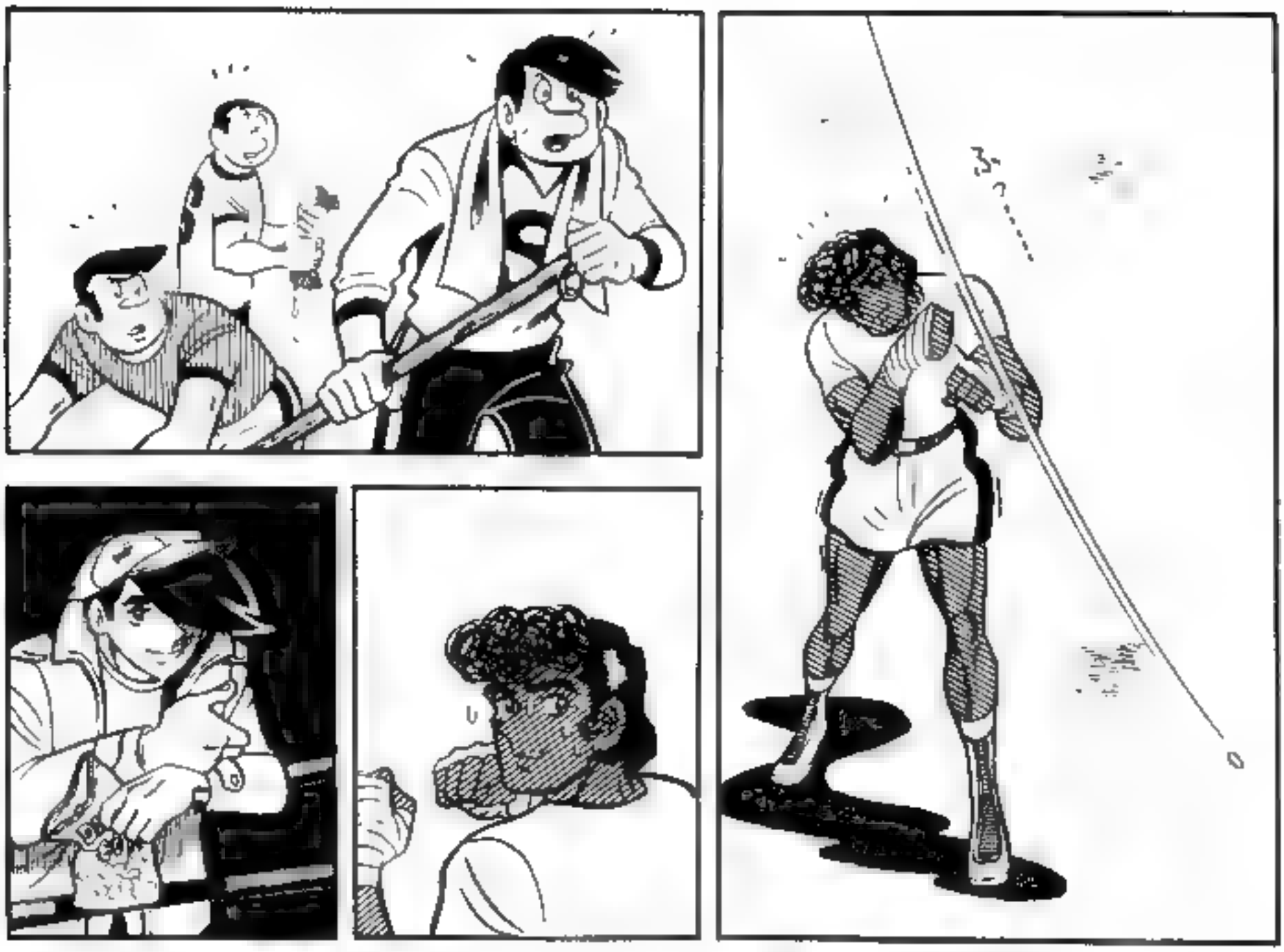
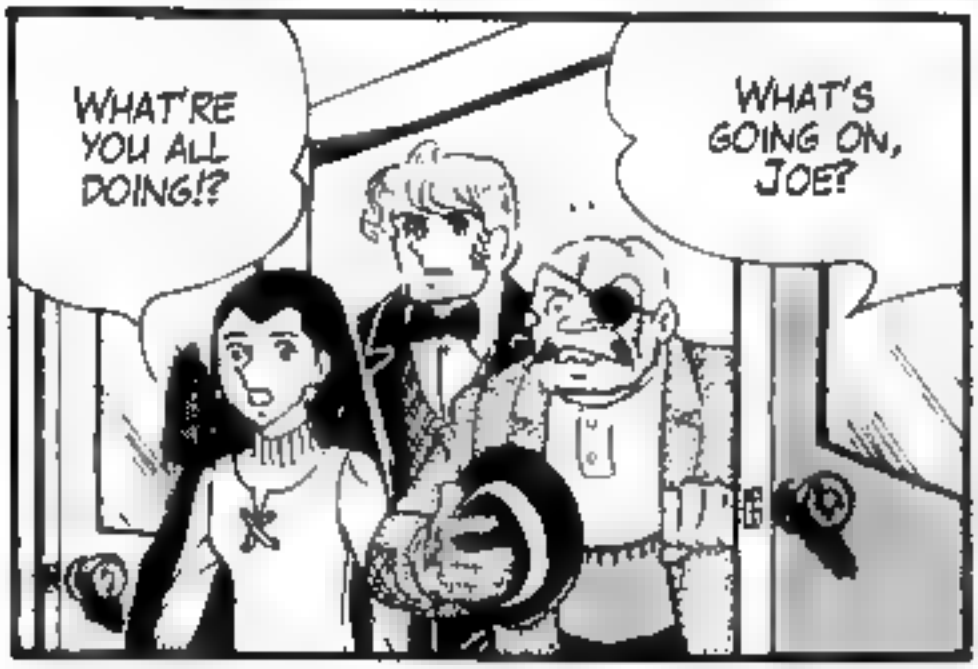
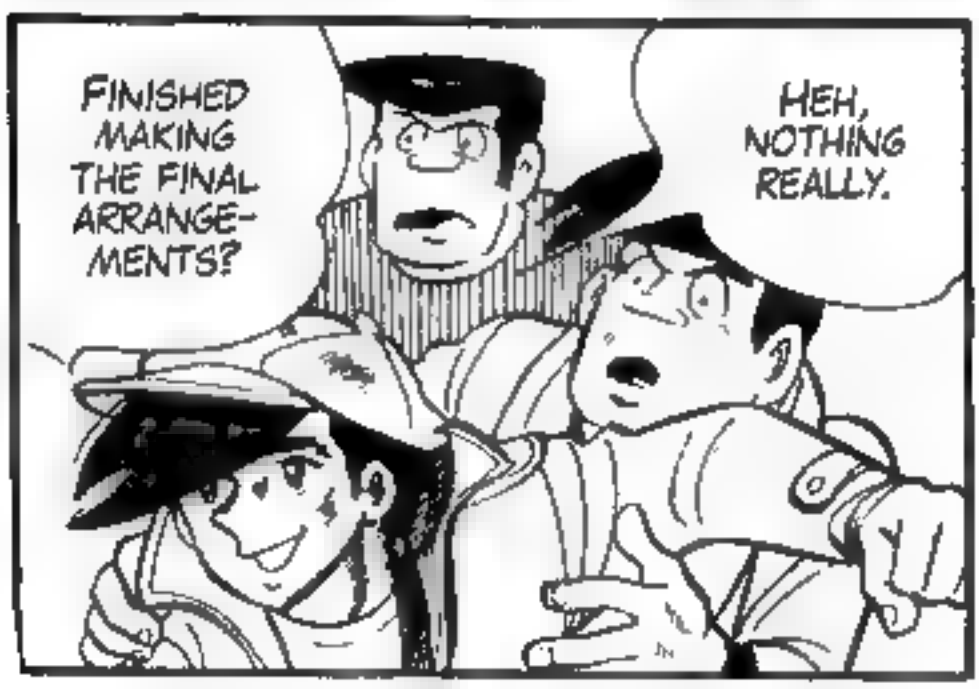


I DON'T THINK CARLOS IS THE KIND OF MAN WHO'D GET RILED UP OVER A LITTLE JOKE LIKE THIS.
OH PLEASE,
YOU'RE GONNA GET HURT IF YOU'RE TRYING TO ANGER MR. RIVERA!
H-HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?


WHAT'RE YOU ALL DOING!?
WHAT'S GOING ON, JOE?


FINISHED MAKING THE FINAL ARRANGE-MENTS?
HEH, NOTHING REALLY.

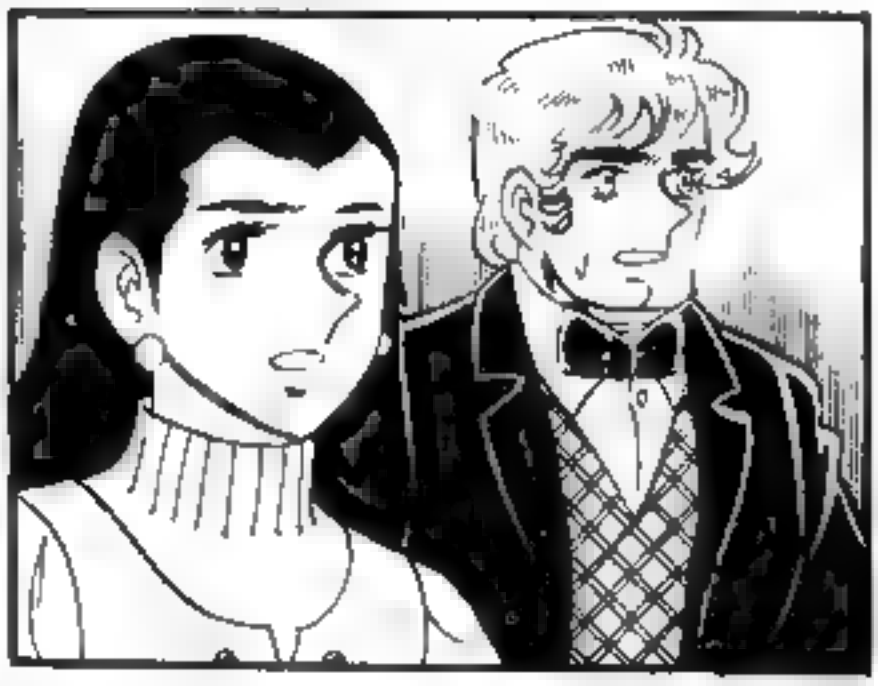
WE ORDER YOU TO STOP THIS AT ONCE!
YOU GUYS SURE ARE NOISY... FINE, LET ME GO.

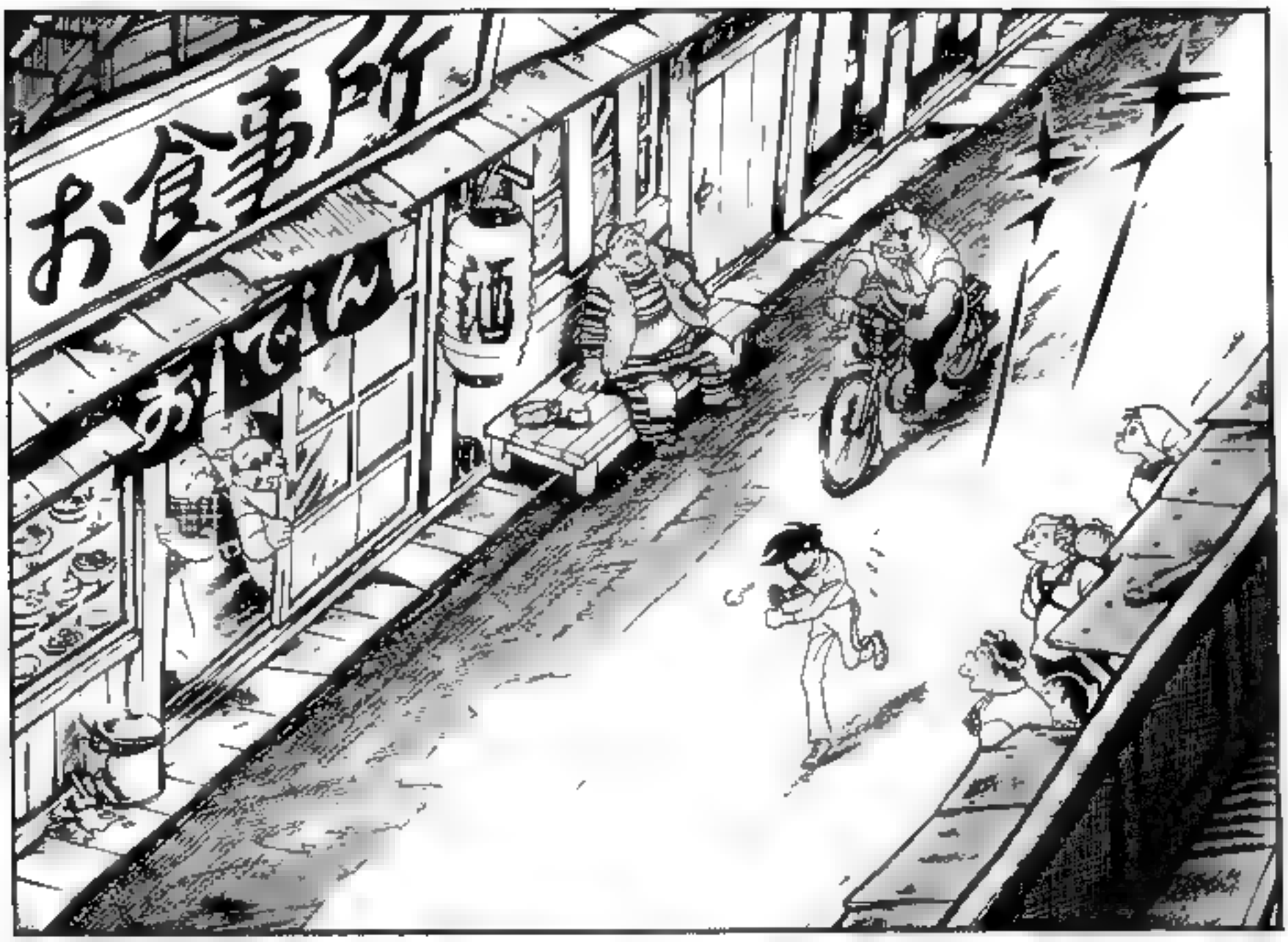
YES, LET'S GO HOME.

SEE YA THEN.

I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO OUR FIGHT.
YOU'RE THE REAL THING, CARLOS!

THAT WAS ONE HELL OF A SHOW TODAY!

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HA...

THAT'S THE JOE WE ALL KNOW AND LOVE!
YOU SURE ARE WORKING HARD, JOE.

HE'S FIGHTING WITH THAT CARLOS WHAT'S-HIS-NAME TOMORROW NIGHT. YOU KNOW, THE GUY WHO'S RANKED 6TH IN THE WORLD.

OUR BOY'S ALL GROWN UP NOW.

HEY,

YEAH, HE'S FIGHTIN' THE BIG-LEAGUERS NOW.

PASS ME ANOTHER FISHCAKE.

I KNOW IT'S JUST A 4-ROUND MATCH BUT... I WONDER IF JOE'LL BE ALRIGHT? HIS OPPONENT'S S'POSED TO BE A REAL MONSTER...

HEAR, HEAR!

A TOAST TO JOE'S FUTURE!

LET'S HAVE A TOAST!

MEANWHILE, OUR BOY'S JUST SOME WASHED-UP FIGHTER WHO ONLY JUST MADE HIS WAY BACK UP TO THE PRO-RINGS AGAIN.

I'M JUST SAYING THAT HE'S UP AGAINST A WORLD-RANKER.

WHAT'S THAT *IF* S'POSED TA MEAN?

YOU WONDER *IF* HE'LL BE ALRIGHT?

YOU SAYIN' OUR JOE'S GON' LOSE?

THIS AIN'T JUST A MATTER OF WIN-OR-LOSE HERE.

THE BOXING WORLD'S A LOT CRUELER THAN THAT.

I SAID STOP FIGHTING!

H-HEY, STOP!

SHUT YOUR TRAP!

IT'S HIS LIFE THAT'S AT ST-

WE DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO JOE-HATERS 'ROUND HERE!

KEEP TALKIN' LIKE THAT AND IT'LL BE *YOUR LIFE* THAT'S AT STAKE!

YOU SEEM A LITTLE STIFFER THAN USUAL...

RIVERA'S GOT BOTH THE POWER AND THE TECHNICAL FINESSE.
IF YOU CAN'T KEEP YOUR BODY FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO WEAVE IN AND OUT, IT'LL BE LIGHTS OUT FOR YOU.

WHY THE CHANGE?

YOU'RE ACTIN' COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THAT COWARD SHAKING IN HIS BOOTS WHEN HE FIRST MET CARLOS.

WELL AREN'T YOU FIRED UP, OLD MAN?

HEH.

I'M STILL JUST AS SCARED OF CARLOS AS EVER.

YOU'RE MISTAKEN.

HMPH,

C'MON, START JOGGING!

NOW LET'S GO BACK TO THE GYM BEFORE YOUR SWEAT DRIES OFF...

WHEN WE LAST WENT TO SHIRAKI GYM TO SEE THE PUBLIC SPARRING SESSION,

HUH?

BUT...

8 OZ?

CARLOS' MANAGER ROBERT PROPOSED USING 8 OZ. GLOVES FOR THE MATCH.

I WILL ADMIT THAT I DO FEEL A LITTLE BETTER ABOUT THIS FIGHT NOW...

I'M NOT TRAINING FOR A FUN PLAY-TIME.

HMPH.

EVEN IF HE DIDN'T BRING IT UP, I WAS PLANNING ON ASKING HIM ANYWAYS.

'COURSE I DID.

AND... YOU ACCEPTED?

THERE'S NO POINT IN FIGHTING A LIFE-OR-DEATH MATCH IN AN EXHIBITION ROUND, JOE...

WHY THE HELL CAN'T YOU LET ME FIGHT MORE SERIOUSLY!?

NOW'S THE TIME TO BE FIGHTING WITH REAL KATANAS! NOT SOME TRAINING SHINAI-SWORDS!

I ACCEPTED THE PROPOSAL BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO RISK YOU BECOMING CRIPPLED BY RIVERA'S BLOWS BUT...

IN ANY CASE,

...

ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT MANAGER ROBERT'S DEFINITELY NOT THE TYPE OF MAN TO CARE ABOUT THE SAFETY OF THE OTHER FIGHTER.

THAT HE ALSO DOESN'T WANT TO RISK HIS PRECIOUS FIGHTER TAKING ANY UNNECESSARY INJURIES. IN OTHER WORDS, HIS OWN INSTINCTS ARE TELLING HIM THAT YOU'RE A FORMIDABLE FOE...!

IT JUST MIGHT BE...

AND SEEING AS HOW HE WAS THE ONE TO PROPOSE THIS,

HAHA... BACK WHEN I SPARRED WITH HIM...

AIN'T THAT OBVIOUS? NO NEED TO TELL ME ALL THAT LIKE IT'S SOME SORT OF BIG SECRET.

YOU BET YOUR ASS I AM!

I MANAGED TO SOCK HIM GOOD RIGHT IN THE FACE WITH A SURPRISE KANGAROO-PUNCH.

HE'S PROBABLY STILL TRAINING SERIOUSLY RIGHT ABOUT NOW FOR OUR FIGHT TOMORROW.

HEH.

THAT MUST'VE WOKE THE TWO OF THEM UP FROM THEIR DAYDREAMS.

WELL, THE REAL FUN STARTS NOW.

HAHA...

OR ARE YOU STUPID ENOUGH TO THINK THAT YOU CAN LAND ANOTHER LUCKY KANGAROO-PUNCH!?

KNOCK OFF THAT COCKY ATTITUDE!

IT'S NOTHING.
NO.
WHAT?
LET'S JUST HURRY BACK TO THE GYM FIRST, HEH HEH.
DON'T WORRY.
A-ARE YOU SAYIN' YOU'VE GOT SOME SORT OF PLAN?
NO, TELL ME.

OH MY...

YOU MUST BE AWFULLY TIRED, AREN'T YOU? DINNER'LL BE READY IN JUST A SEC.
OH, WELCOME HOME, BOYS.
THIS PLACE IS LOOKING MORE LIKE THE CLEANERS.
WELL, JOE NEEDS TO EAT UP IF HE WANTS TO KEEP HIS STAMINA UP FOR HIS BIG FIGHT TOMORROW, RIGHT?
MMM, SOMETHING SMELLS GOOD.
THANKS FOR THE BIG HELP AS ALWAYS, NORIKO.

JOE!

CAN'T YOU AT LEAST SAY A WORD OF THANKS!?

MAN, HOW DO YOU EXPECT US TO TRAIN WITH ALL THESE CLOTHES HANGING EVERYWHERE?

GO AND WASH YOUR HANDS FIRST.

IT'S FINE, MR. TANGE. IN ANY CASE, DINNER'S READY.

THANKS.

AIN'T THIS SOMETHIN', JOE!?

THIS IS DELICIOUS!

MMM!

YEAH IT'S GOOD BUT PIPE DOWN ALREADY...

TALK ABOUT A TACTLESS DUNCE.

SIGH...

HE ONLY NEEDED A LIGHT WORKOUT. NOW ALL HE NEEDS TO DO IS GET SOME REST BEFORE THE FIGHT.

YEAH, SINCE THE MATCH IS TOMORROW,

SO YOU'RE DONE WITH PRACTICE FOR TODAY, RIGHT?

YOU SHOULD GO WITH HER AND TAKE IT EASY TONIGHT.

GOOD IDEA.

SAY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME ALONG?

WELL, THEY'RE HOLDING A GARDENING FAIR BY THE SHIRAHIGE SHRINE TODAY..

NISHI'S BUSY CLEARING UP THE FINAL ORDERS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE STORE TONIGHT.

WHERE'S THE MAMMOTH?

HMM...

SO TAKING A BREATHER BY THE SHRINE MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA...

HE FIGURED YOU'D BE STRESSED OUT,

UMM... NISHI WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO INVITE YOU.

ふぅ...

TELL NISHI THAT MY NERVES DON'T GET SHOT EASILY, UNLIKE HIS. HAHAHA...

I AIN'T STRESSED OUT.

NO WORRIES.

HAHA.

LEARNING TO RELAX PROPERLY IS CRITICAL TO WINNING AS WELL.

JOE, GO WITH NORIKO.

WHY DON'T YOU GO WITH HER, OLD MAN?

SORRY, I AIN'T INTERESTED IN TREES OR ANY OF THAT.

I HEAR THEY'RE EVEN DOING FIREWORKS DOWN BY THE RIVERBANKS!

WELL, LET'S STILL GO.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY YOU SHOULD-

THE FIGHT'S TOMORROW.

OH, C'MON. YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THIS AIN'T THE SORT OF MATCH WHERE I CAN AFFORD TO RELAX.

WELL, THAT'S HOW IT IS, NORIKO.

AH...

YOU SAYIN' YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT WHAT I MUTTERED ON OUR WAY BACK HERE?

THANKS... TELL NISHI TO COME AND WATCH IF HE'S FREE TOMORROW.

GOOD LUCK TOMO-RROW.

SORRY, BUT I REALLY CAN'T GO TONIGHT.

MAYBE ANOTHER TIME.

Y-YEAH, I UNDER-STAND...

HAND ME THOSE 16 OZ. GLOVES.

AL-RIGHT,

16 OZ..?

IF HE EVER HAPPENS TO DRIVE ME INTO THE ROPES.

IT'S TRUE THAT CARLOS WILL DEFINITELY BE ON GUARD FOR IT,

YOU SAID THAT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LAND ANOTHER KANGAROO PUNCH ON CARLOS...

EARLIER TODAY,

THINGS WON'T JUST END WITH HIM FROWNING.

IF HE HAPPENS TO SLIPS UP AND TAKES ANOTHER KANGAROO PUNCH,

BUT UNLIKE LAST TIME, WE'RE FIGHTING WITH 8 OZ. GLOVES.

IF I'M LEANING BACK ON THE ROPES, HE'S NOT GONNA THROW A STRAIGHT, WHICH IS UNFORTUNATELY WHAT I NEED FOR A KANGAROO CROSS-COUNTER.

NOW TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT,

AH...

THAT MEANS FOR HIM, THE REWARDS OUTWEIGH THE RISK. THAT IS TO SAY, HE CAN DISH OUT JUST AS MUCH DAMAGE, IF NOT MORE...

SO... IF HE DOES DRIVE ME INTO THE ROPES,

YOU WITH ME SO FAR?

AND SO, I NEED ANOTHER WAY TO LURE OUT A PUNCH THAT I CAN COUNTER WITH A KANGAROO PUNCH.

MY PLAN'S STILL TO SETTLE THIS MATCH ALONG THE ROPES.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I SHOULD JUST ABANDON THE IDEA OF FALLING BACK TO THE ROPES.

HEH.

YOU DON'T NEED TO WEAR GLOVES RIGHT NOW.

COME INTO THE RING AND I'LL SHOW YA.

A-ANOTHER WAY...?

SHOW ME.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

HM...

IF YOU SAW YOUR OPPONENT LEANING BACK LIKE THIS,

NOW...

I'D GO WITH EITHER AN UPPERCUT ...

WHICH MEANS,

I GUESS STRAIGHTS, JABS, AND HOOKS ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION SINCE YOU'RE OUT OF REACH...

OR A SWING!

UGHHH!

KI...

KI...

KI...

AHAHAHAHA!

¡AWWOW

WEEEEEEE!

KYAAAA!

NEXT

DID YOU ALL HEAR TONKICHI CRY FOR HIS MOMMY!?

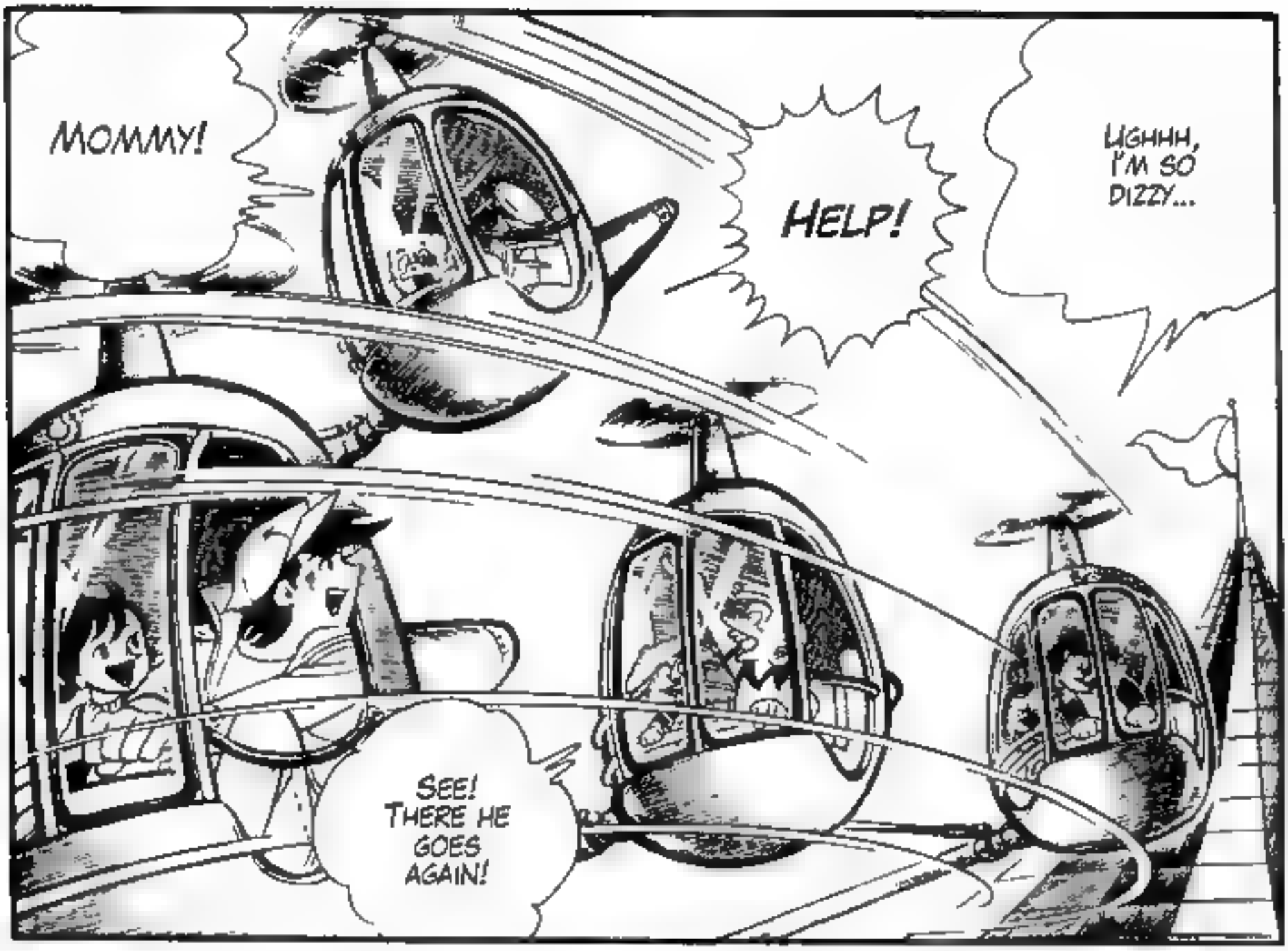
IT SURE WAS!

MAN, THAT WAS FUN!

I... I DID NOT!

HAHAHA...

ALRIGHT, LET'S GO ON THE HELICOPTER NEXT!


MOMMY!
HELP!
UGHHH, I'M SO DIZZY...
SEE! THERE HE GOES AGAIN!

ALRIGHT, WHAT DO YOU KIDS WANT TO RIDE NEXT?

AND THEN LET'S GO TO THE HAUNTED MANSION!
THEN I WANNA RIDE THE ROLLER COASTER AGAIN!
WE STILL HAVE TICKETS LEFT?

THE WHOLE WORLD IS SPINNING...
HAHAHA! WHAT A BLAST!

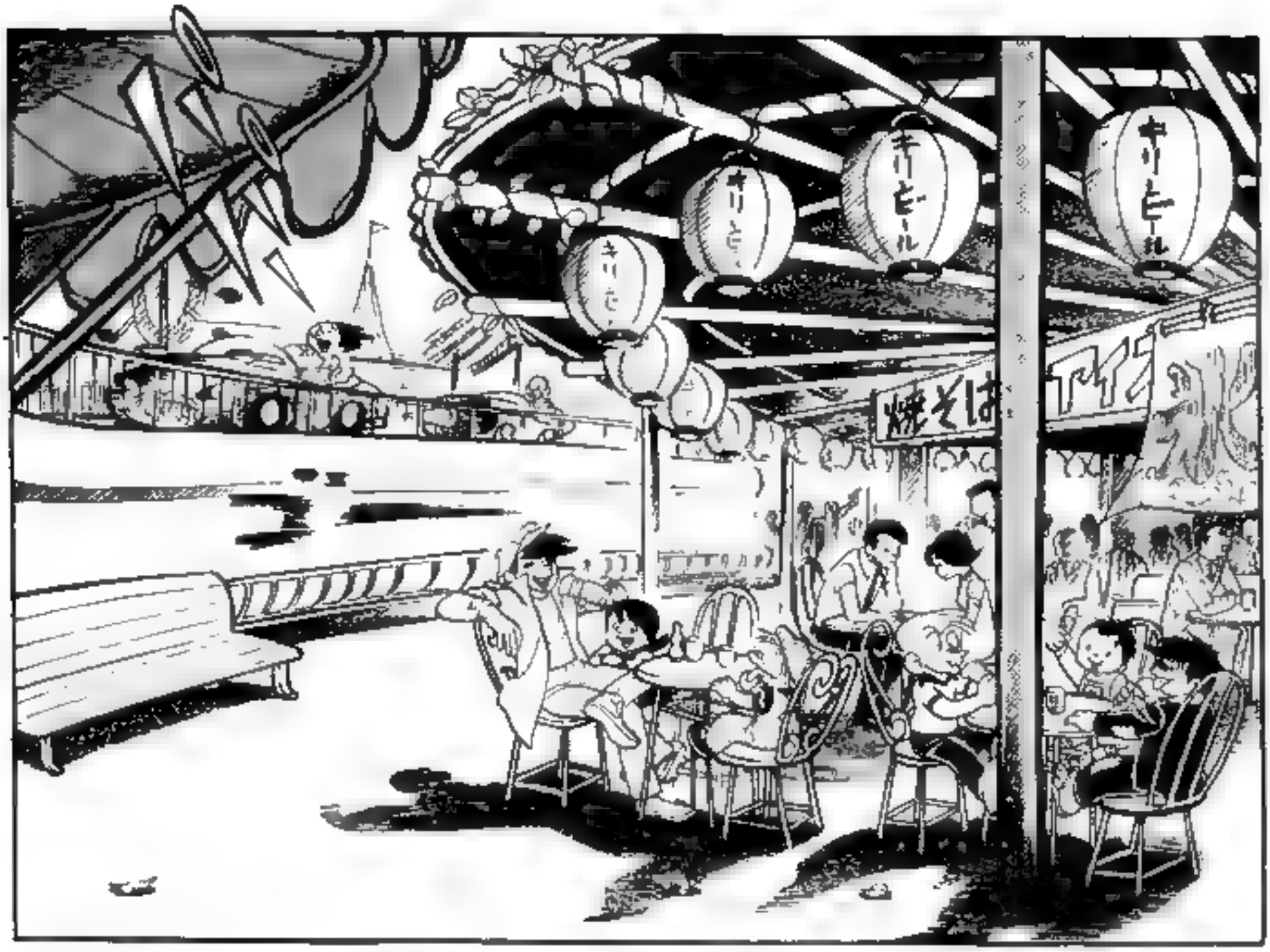
AGHHH!

PFFT, STOP WORRYING, YOU LIL' BRATS.

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU SPEND SO MUCH MONEY. WE KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH...

KYAAAAA!

MOMMY!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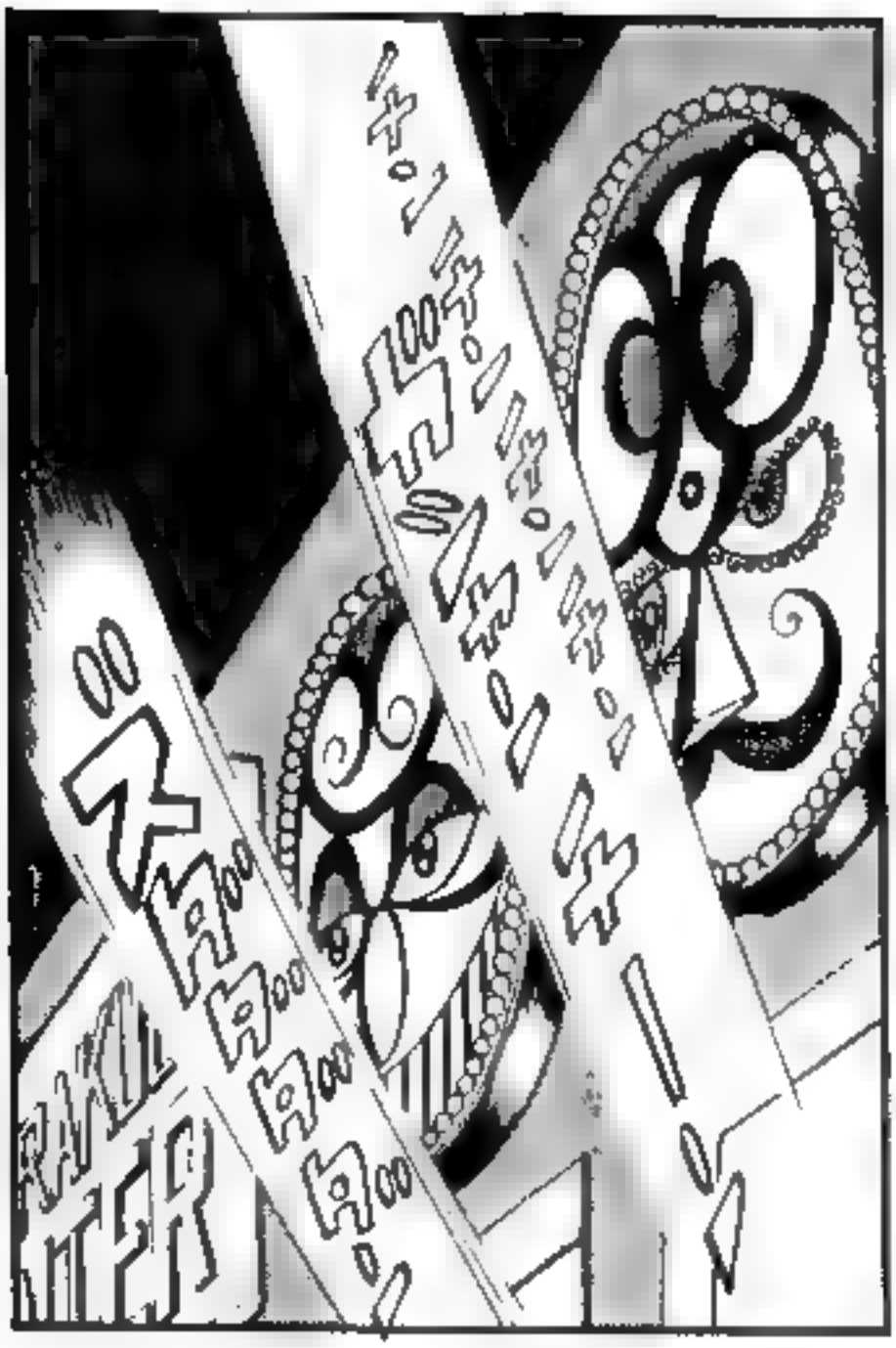
HAHA...
I'M TIRED.
YEAH, WE BASICALLY RODE EVERY RIDE IN THIS PLACE AT LEAST THREE TIMES!
HEE HEE, I'VE NEVER RIDDEN SO MANY FUN THINGS BEFORE.

HE LOOKS REALLY EASY-GOING, DOESN'T HE...
IS IT ALRIGHT FOR HIM TO SLACK OFF LIKE THIS RIGHT NOW?
ISN'T HE FIGHTING THAT FOREIGNER WHO'S RANKED 6TH IN THE WORLD TONIGHT...?

WHOA, YOU'RE RIGHT.
HEY, ISN'T THAT YABUKI JOE?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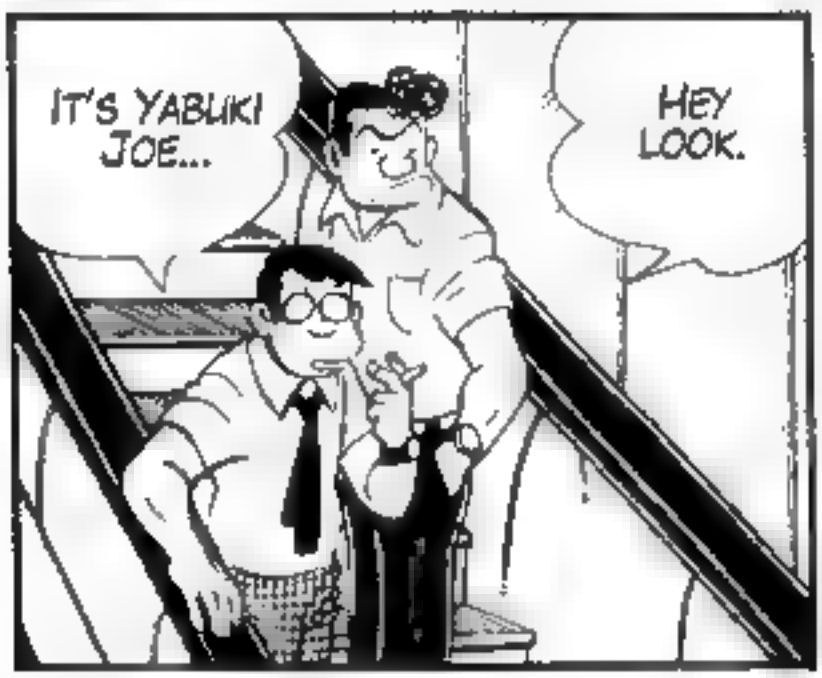
OH SHOOT, IT'S ALREADY GOTTEN THIS LATE?
HE IS?
YOUR COACH IS LOOKING FOR YOU AT THE HALL.
OK.
SO WE BETTER LEAVE NOW.
BUT I DO HAVE TO GET READY,
DON'T WORRY, I CAN STILL MAKE IT JUST FINE.
IS IT ALMOST TIME FOR YOUR MATCH ALREADY?


IT'S YABUKI JOE...
HEY LOOK.

TONIGHT'S MATCHES
Japanese Featherweight Title Match
Okajima Tetsuji (Toua Gym)
Akagai Takeo (Shiraki Gym)
10 ROUNDS
Special Exhibition Match
Carlos Rivera vs. Yabuki Joe
4 ROUNDS

MIND IF I HAVE A WORD!?
HEY YOU!

YEAH, POOR CHAP.
ISN'T HE FIGHTING

GET BACK HERE!
QUIT IT, TARO!

WELL!?
WHAT YOU WERE MUTTERIN' TO YOUR PAL JUST NOW...!?
CARE TO TELL ME,
UMM, NO, I...

HEH HEH.

ゴッ

STOP TRYING TO SHOW OFF LIKE THAT, YOU DUMBASS.

MR. DANPEI'S BEEN NERVOUSLY PACING BACK AND FORTH IN THE CHANGE ROOM BECAUSE OF YOU!

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN!?

YABUKI!

OH HEY, NORIKO!

NORIKO?

BUT... IT'S UNUSUAL TO SEE YOU COME TO MY MATCHES, NORIKO.

I'M ON MY WAY THERE NOW.

SORRY, SORRY.

SO INSTEAD OF LETTING THE TICKET GO TO WASTE, HE THOUGHT MAYBE I SHOULD GO INSTEAD...

WELL, NISHI WAS PLANNING TO COME BUT SOME BUSINESS CAME UP AT THE LAST MOMENT SO HE COULDN'T MAKE IT.

YEAH, WE'RE DOING SOME RENOVATIONS RIGHT NOW TO EXPAND THE STORE.

IS THE STORE THAT BUSY THESE DAYS?

HE ALWAYS USED TO MAKE TIME IN HIS SCHEDULE TO BE MY SECOND NO MATTER WHAT...

HM...

IMPRESSIVE.

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

JUST GET CHANGED ALREADY.

EXHIBITION MATCHES DON'T HAVE NONE OF THAT PRE-MATCH WEIGHING CRAP SO I LET MYSELF RELAX A LITTLE TOO MUCH.

I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY SO STOP GIVING ME SUCH A DIRTY LOOK.

YEAH, YEAH.

WE'RE FRIENDS OF JOE SO WE'VE GOT EVERY RIGHT TO BE-

WHADDYA MEAN RES-TRICTED!?

SO LEAVE US ALONE.

THIS PLACE IS RESTRICTED ACCESS.

...

LET'S GO.

SSSHH!

G'LUCK! WE'LL BE CHEERING YOU ON AT THE STANDS!

JUST WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON IN YOUR MIND AT THIS CRITICAL TIME?

ENOUGH MESSING AROUND JOE...

KILL SOME FREE TIME...?

OH NOTHING MUCH. I JUST KILLED SOME OF THE FREE TIME I HAD, THAT'S ALL.

HEH.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY MIND?

PLEASE GET READY TO COME OUT.

YOU'RE UP NEXT.

YOU D-

IT WAS PRETTY FUN.

YUP, I RODE THE ROLLER COASTER AND HAD MYSELF SOME ICE CREAM.

JUST GET CHANGED THIS INSTANT!

O-OH...

HM?

I FEEL JUST FINE, I TELL YOU WHAT.

OKIE DOKIE..

GIVE ME YOUR HAND!

WELL, WELL, AREN'T YOU CONFIDENT?

SO THERE'S NO REASON TO BE AFRAID OF HIM, RIGHT?

YOU'VE FIGURED OUT RIVERA,

I NEVER SAID THAT.

WITH THAT CONFIDENCE, I'M SURE EVEN CARLOS AIN'T WORTH A SHIT COMPARED TO YOU, RIGHT?

I SAID I NEVER SAID THAT SO KNOCK IT OFF!

REAAAAAL GREAAAT.

YOU SURE ARE GREAT.

YUP, YUP,

JOE...

ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE TACTIC YOU SHOWED ME LAST NIGHT WON'T-

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I ONLY WENT OUT TO GET SOME FRESH AIR SINCE NERVOUSLY FLAILING ABOUT AIN'T GONNA HELP.

WHA?

OH CRAP! C'MON, JOE!

HURRY UP!

WHAT'RE YOU TWO DOING!? CARLOS IS ALREADY ON THE RING!

YOU THINK I CAN TAKE CARE OF YOU ALL BY MYSELF!?

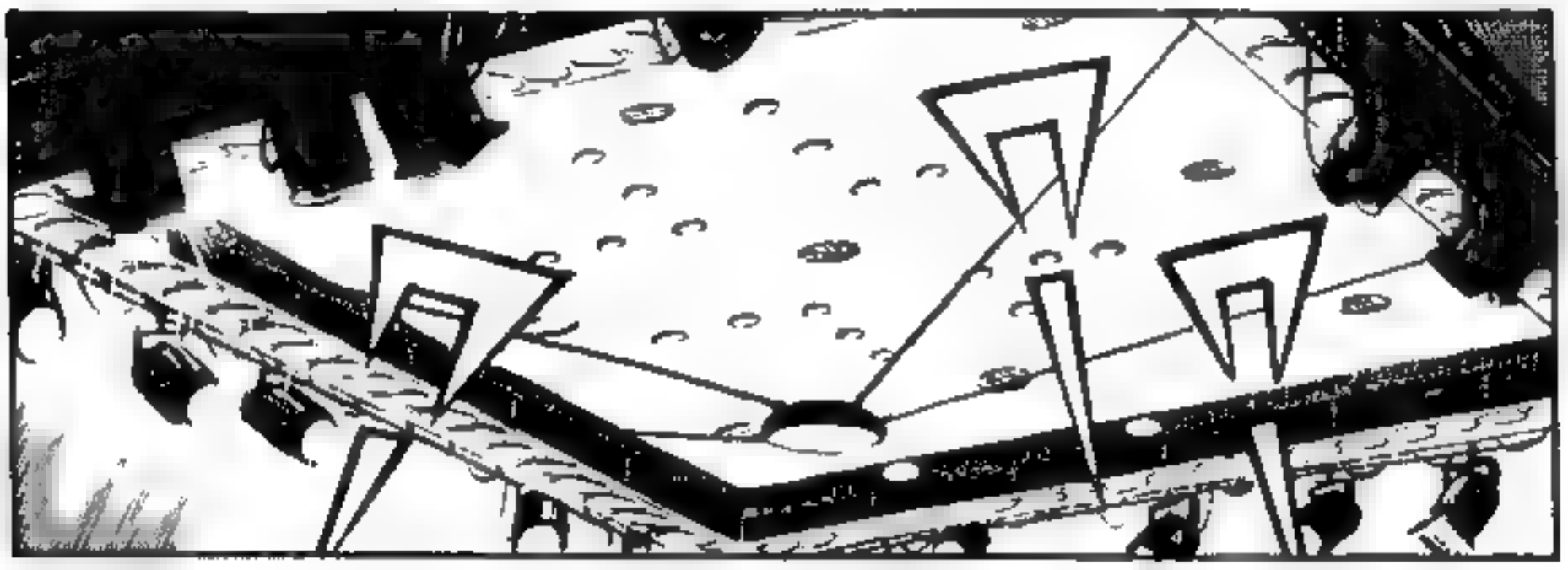
COME ON NOW, WE'RE ALREADY LATE.

WHAT!? SHE'S MY SECOND...!?

SURE.

NORIKO, CAN YOU GRAB THE TOWEL AND VASELIN OVER THERE AND COME WITH ME?

WITH NISHI AWAY, I'LL NEED YOU TO BE JOE'S SECOND.



I DOUBT ANY OF THEM EVEN CARE ONE BIT ABOUT THE MAIN EVENT TONIGHT!

EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST A 4-ROUND EXHIBITION MATCH, THE STADIUM'S PACKED WITH PEOPLE WHO'VE COME TO SEE CARLOS RIVERA.

IT'S NOT SURPRISING AFTER THE 6TH RANKED BOXER IN THE WORLD HAS FINALLY TAKEN OFF HIS MASK AND SHOWED HOW FEARSOME HE REALLY IS.

YES...

THE VERY IMAGE OF A WILD PANTHER LEAPS INTO YOUR MIND WHEN LOOKING AT RIVERA!

YOU CAN JUST TELL FROM THE VERY LOOK ON HIS FACE THAT WE'RE DEALING WITH A REAL CHAMPION TONIGHT!

YOU'RE LATE!

DID YOU GET A LIL' CASE OF COLD FEET!? OR WAS IT WET PANTS INSTEAD? AHAHAHAHA!

A WILD BEAST INDEED. MEANWHILE, HIS OPPONENT TONIGHT IS YABUKI JOE, A BOXER ONCE WIDELY ACCLAIMED IN THE JAPANESE BOXING WORLD...

AH, THERE HE IS AT LAST.

SHE'S WAY TOO GOOD FOR THAT IDIOT!

WHOA, SHE'S CUTE.

HUH? WHO'S THAT CHICK BEHIND HIM?

THIS HAS GOT TO BE BREAKING SOME SORT OF REGULATION.

EVEN FOR A GYM AS POOR AS THEIRS,

IS TANGE REALLY PLANNING ON USING THAT LITTLE GIRL AS A SECOND?

OH DID YOU NOW? CAN'T SAY I AGREE WITH THE COMMISSIONER SINCE HE'S MAKING JAPANESE BOXING LOOK LIKE A JOKE...

I'VE ALREADY TALKED WITH THE COMMISSIONER AND GOTTEN PERMISSION.

LEAVE HIM BE...

AS IF RIVERA'S NOT GONNA WIN BY A KO ALREADY!

AS AN EXHIBITION MATCH, THIS FIGHT WILL BE DECLARED A DRAW UNLESS EITHER PLAYER SCORES A KO.

AHAHAHA!

I REALLY DO FEEL SORRY FOR YA!

HEY JOE! YOU REALLY MUST'VE HIT ROCK BOTTOM IF YOU AGREED TO PLAY THE PART OF THE VICTIM!

HEE HEE!

AHAHAHAHA!

.....

THIS MUST ALL BE SOME SORT OF CRUEL PLAN HATCHED BY THAT FOXY OWNER OF SHIRAKI GYM!

OBVIOUSLY. I MEAN, JOE'S THE ONE WHO KILLED RIKIISHI, SHIRAKI GYM'S FORMER STAR!

HE'S NOT SOME OPPONENT THAT I CAN HALF-ASS MY WAY AROUND...
ALREADY PLANNING ON IT.
GO FULL-OUT RIGHT FROM THE START.
SEND HIM FLYIN', CARLOS!

G... GOOD LUCK, JOE...
FOCUS OUT THERE, YABUKI...!

FIGHT!

NGHH...

UGH-

HM...

シュン

AHH!
JOE!

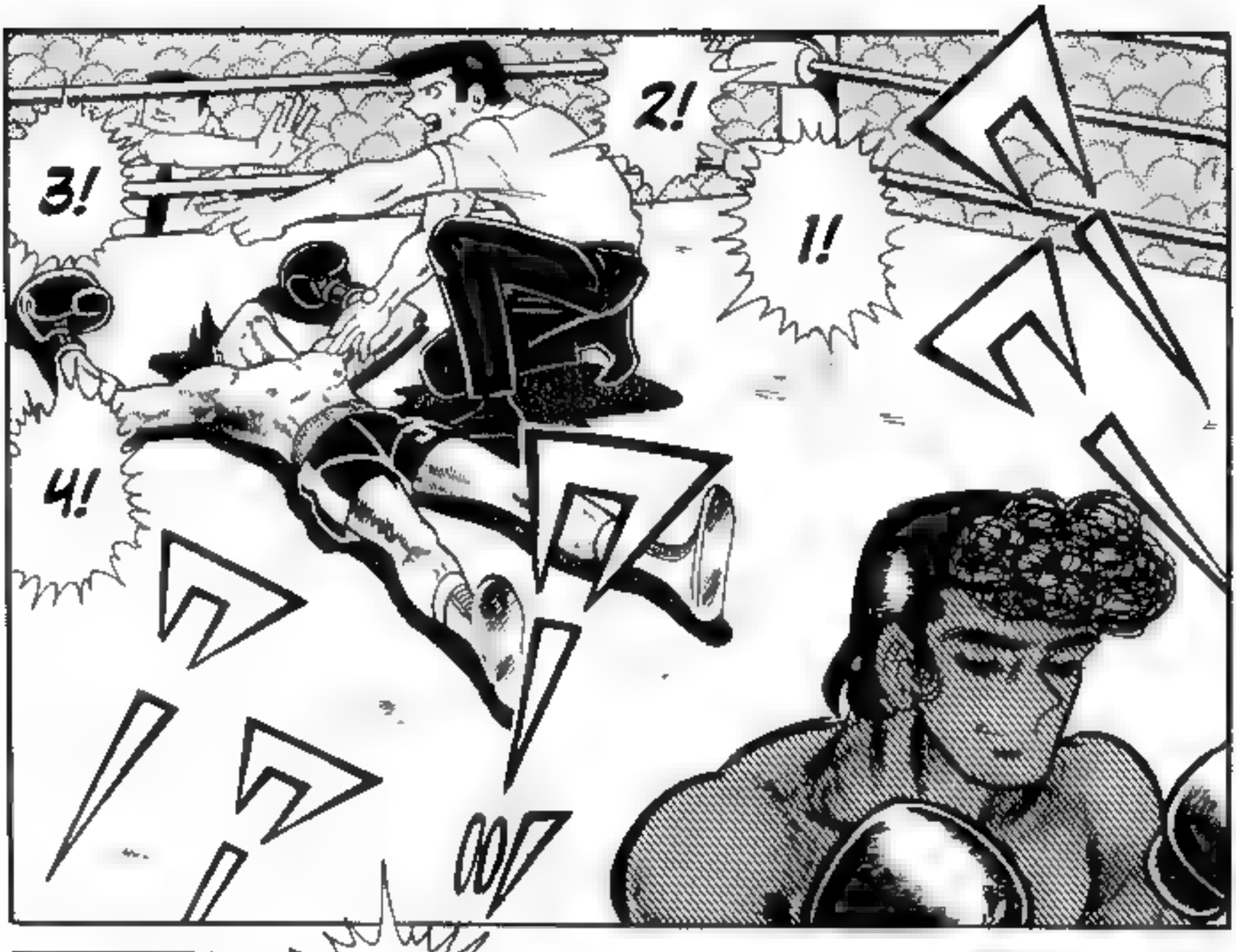
I REPEAT, YABUKI JOE HAS GONE DOWN ALREADY!

Y-YABUKI'S DOWN!

B-BACK TO YOUR CORNER!

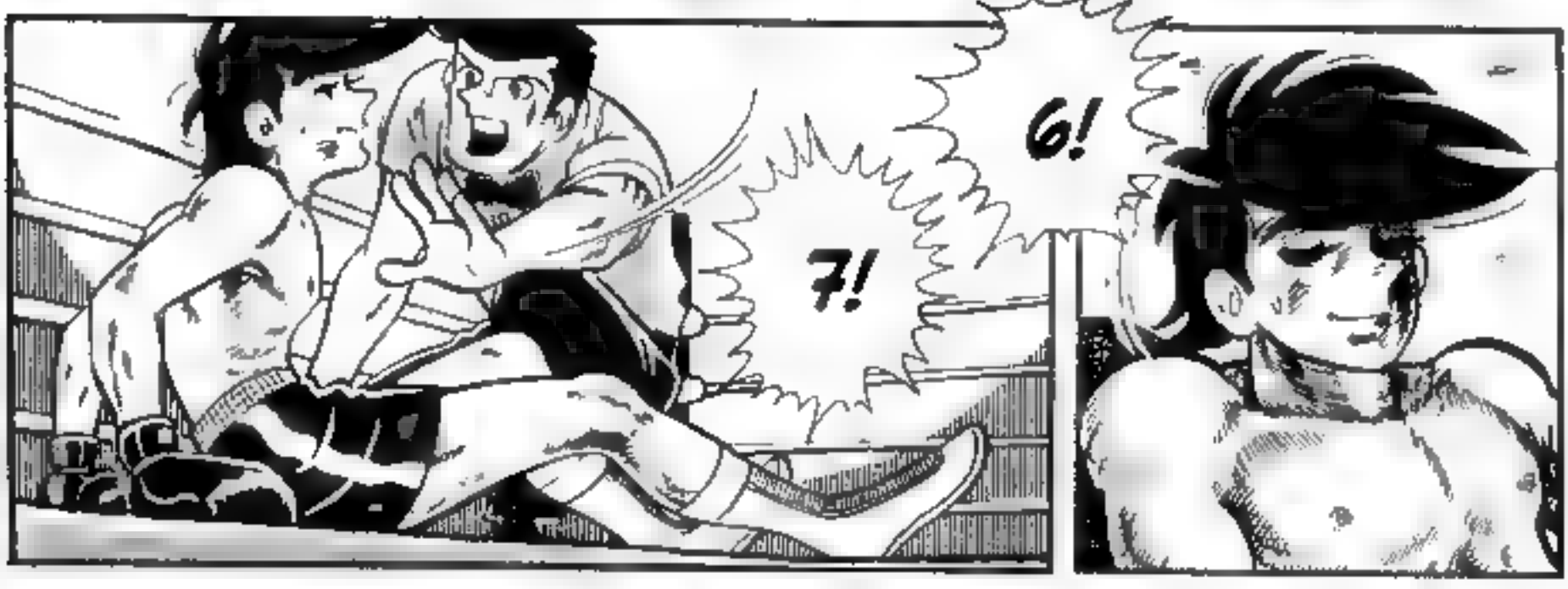
AGHHH!

WHOAAAA!


1!
2!
3!
4!

5!

STAND UP, JOE...!
JOE...


6!
7!

I-IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE 8 OZ. GLOVES THEY'RE FIGHTING WITH TONIGHT, I DOUBT YABUKI WOULD'VE MANAGED TO STAND BACK UP BEFORE THE REF FINISHED COUNTING DOWN...

8...

WHAT MONSTROUS STRENGTH AND SPEED HE HAS!

YES, IF RIVERA HAD BEEN FIGHTING WITH HIS NORMAL 6 OZ. GLOVES, THIS MATCH WOULD BE A REPEAT PERFORMANCE OF HIS 10 SECOND KO-WIN OVER TIGER OZAKI.

YOU BLIND? I'M STANDING JUST FINE, AREN'T I?

ARE YOU GOOD TO FIGHT?

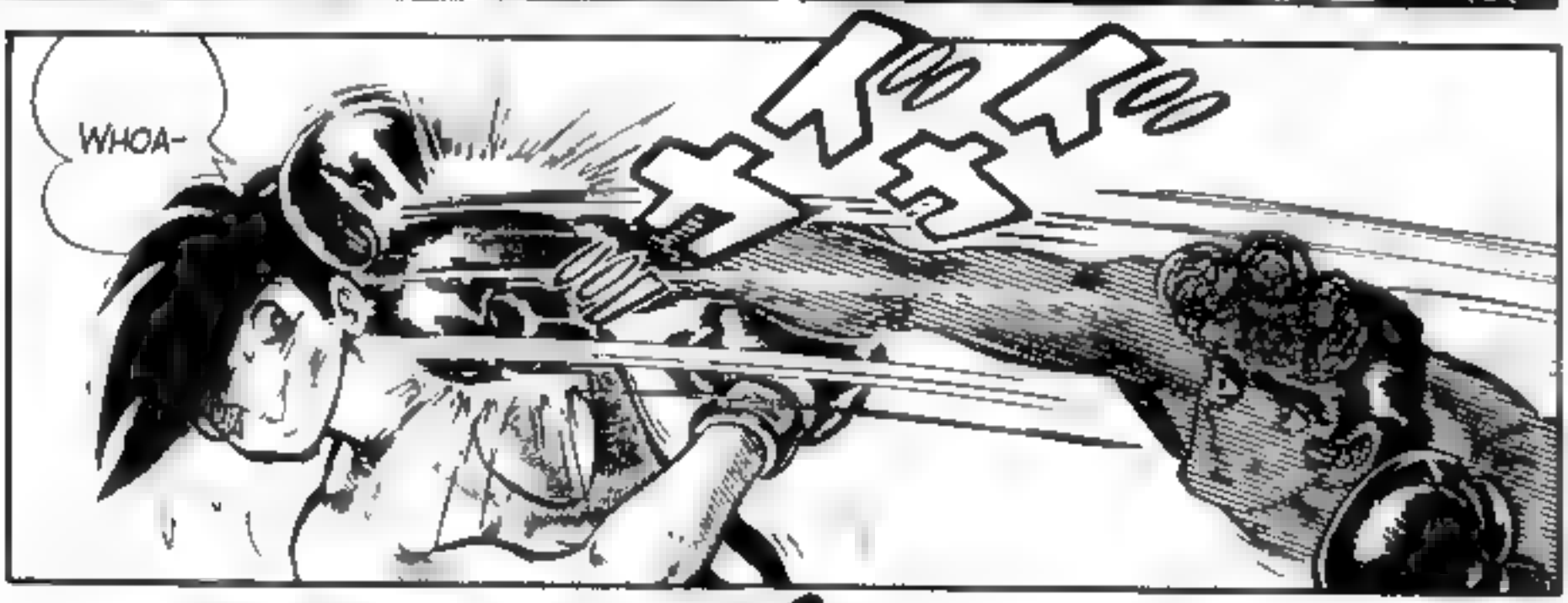
ARE...

THANKS FOR LIVING UP TO MY EXPECTA-TIONS, CARLOS.

HEH HEH.

F-FIGHT ON!

BETWEEN TWO MEN SHOULD BE...
THIS IS HOW A FIGHT,


WHOA-

UGH!

DON'T JUST STAND THERE! CLINCH! CLINCH!
J-JOE! PULL BACK, YOU IDIOT!

AH!

W-WHAT'S WITH HIM...? HE'S GRINNING LIKE A MORON EVEN AFTER HIS ASS WAS SENT FLYIN'...

IS HE SOME SORT OF MASOCHIST OR WHAT?

IT... IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE YABUKI'S ENJOYING RIVERA'S MURDEROUS PUNCHES...

THAT'S ABSURD. I'M SURE HE'S ONLY BLUFFING!

IN ANY CASE,

IT APPEARS JOE'S ATTITUDE HAS WIPED THE GRIN OFF OF RIVERA, WHO NOW RUSHES IN FURIOUSLY!

ドドド

NO NEED TO LOSE YOUR COOL THAT QUICKLY...

OOF!

AHHH! ANOTHER DOWN!

3!

2!

YABUKI JOE IS DOWN FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS ROUND!

CMON, SHOW THAT CURLY-HAIRED LOSER WHO'S BOSS!

STAND UP! STAND UP!

J-JOE...

JOE...

6!

7!

HAHA, HOW LONG ARE YA PLANNIN' TO COUNT? I'M ALREADY STANDING.

FIGHT SERIOUSLY!

THERE'S NOTHING MORE CRINGE-WORTHY THAN A LOSER LAUGHING AT HOW PATHETIC HE IS!

WHAT THE HELL'S SO FUNNY, YOU IDIOT!?

H-HE'S STILL LAUGHING...

HEH...

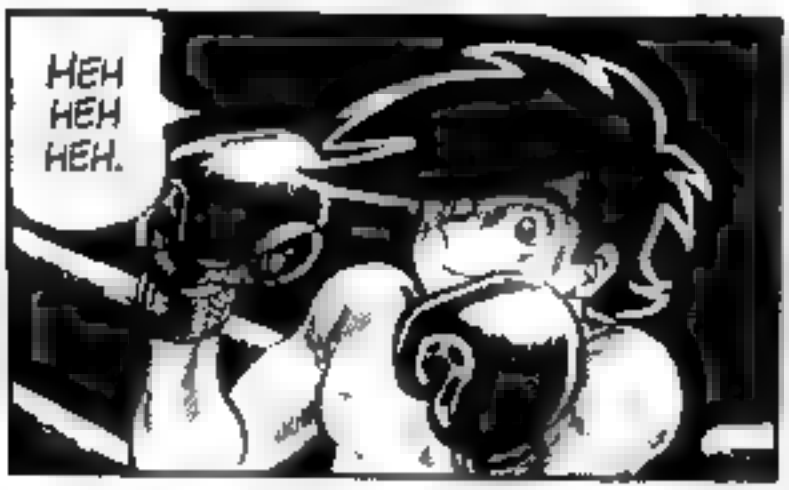
F-
FIGHT
ON!

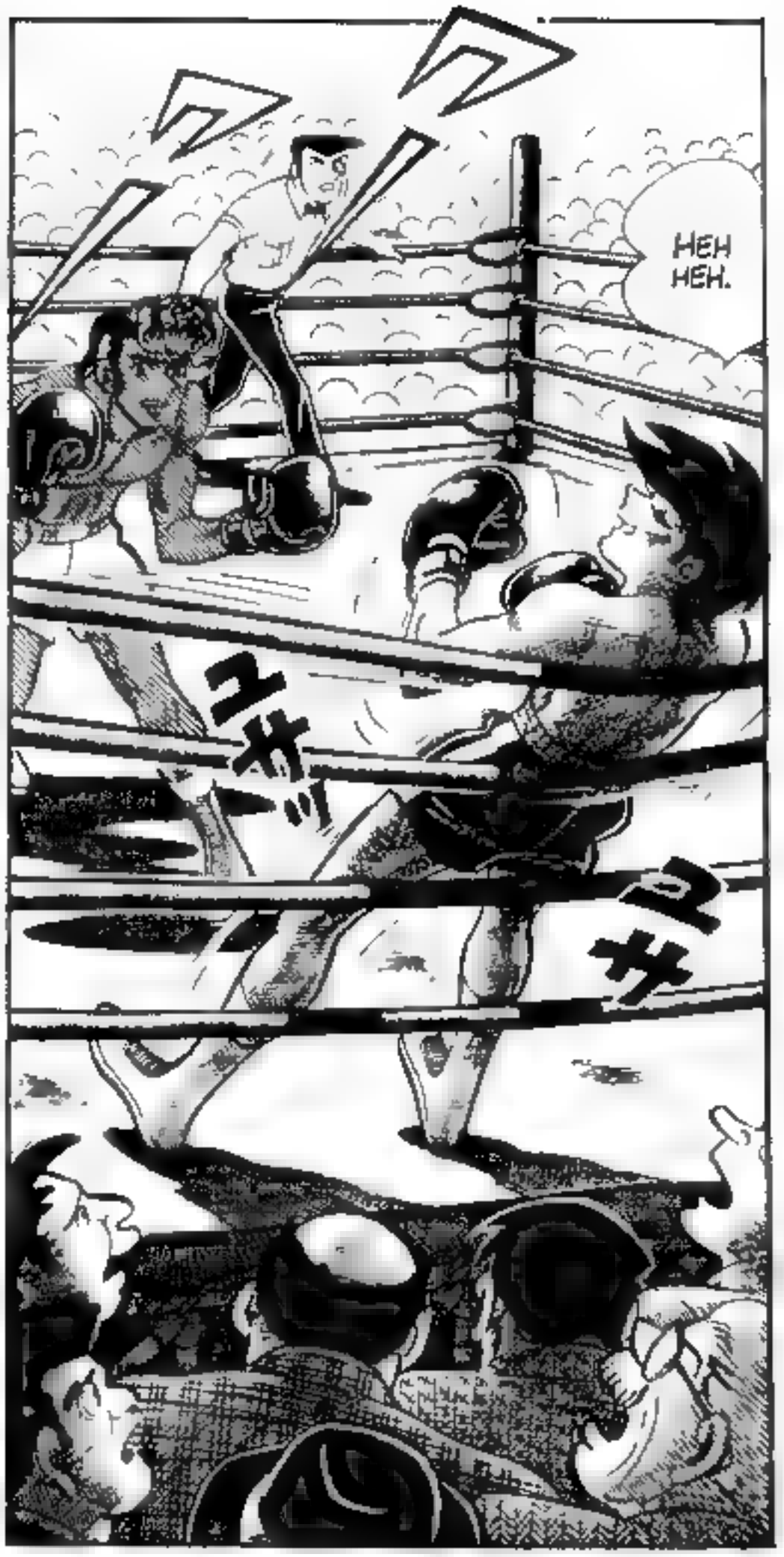
CLOSE...
BUT NO
CIGAR.

THINGS WON'T GO YOUR WAY SO EASILY FROM NOW ON...!

AHH!
CARLOS! STOP!

AHH-


HEH HEH HEH.


HEH HEH.

.....?
.....?

WHAT'S WRONG, CARLOS?
HEH HEH.

JUST YOU WATCH, OLD MAN.

I'LL SETTLE THIS MATCH ALONG THE ROPES.

J-JOE...

FIGHT!

YABUKI JOE,

HAS BEEN PRESSED ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE ROPES!

AND EVEN THOUGH IT'S THE PERFECT CHANCE FOR RIVERA TO UNLEASH HIS DEVASTATING STRAIGHT WITH THOSE LONG ARMS OF HIS...

HE'S HESITATING BECAUSE,

IT'LL REFLECT BADLY ON HIS PRESTIGE THAT HE HAD TO FINISH OFF SUCH A WEAK OPPONENT BY CORNERING HIM TO THE ROPES...?

IT'S A MYSTERY WHY HE'S FROZEN ALL OF A SUDDEN!

PERHAPS...

HAH!

AFTER ALL, HIS MANAGER ROBERT WAS THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED THEY USE 8 OZ. GLOVES FOR THIS MATCH, PRESUMABLY AS TO NOT RISK CRIPPLING YABUKI JOE...

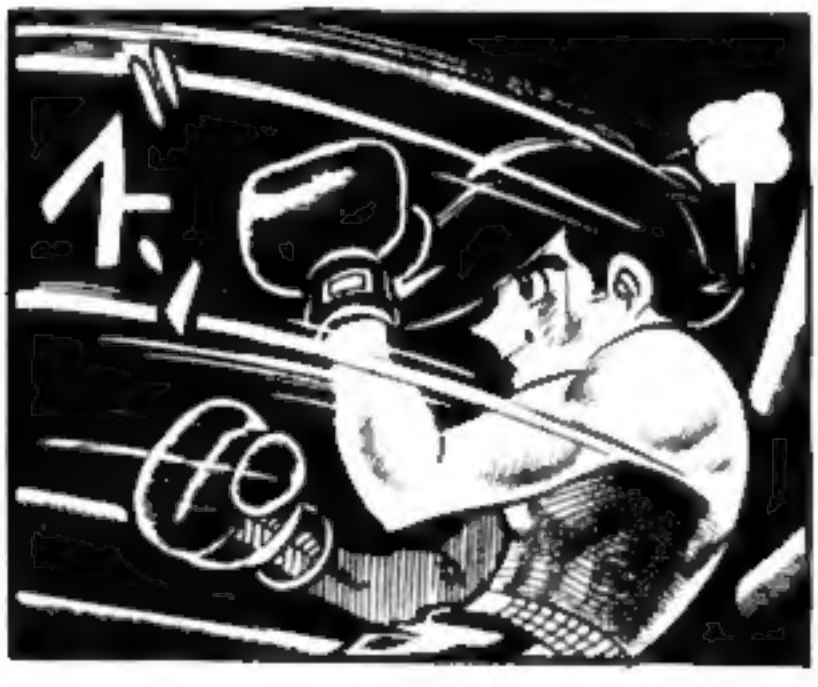
HERE I COME!

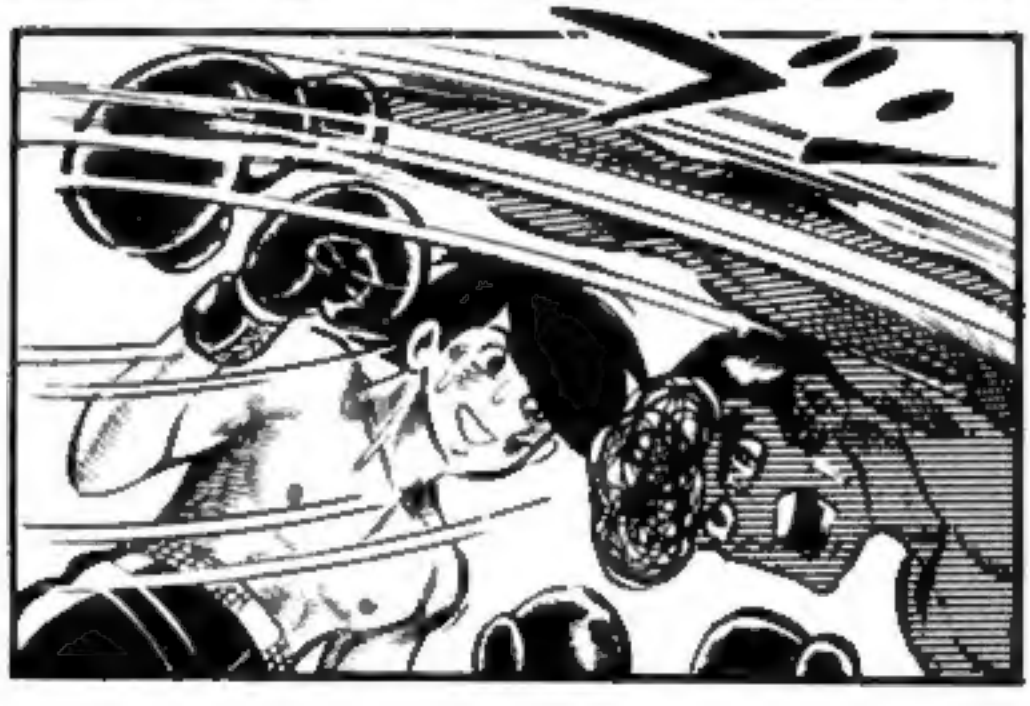
AGHH!

AND NOW IT'S YABUKI WHO'S ON THE OFFENSIVE!

HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS!?
HAH!

HIS PRIDE MUST BE BADLY HURT FROM TAKING A HIT FROM A BOXER FAR BELOW HIM.
AND RIVERA IS FURIOUS!
GAAAHHH!
WHOA-





C'MON!

NGHH...

WELL?

NONE OF THE BOXERS ARE ATTACKING!

A-AND YABUKI RETREATS TO THE ROPES AGAIN!

HEH HEH.

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

GET A GRIP!

YOU THINK YOU CAN HIT ME WITH THOSE LIGHT JABS WHEN I'M LEANING THIS FAR BACK?

HAHA.

HUFF

HUFF

HA...

CAN'T YOU EVEN REALIZE YOU SHOULD HIT HIM WITH AN UPPERCUT OR A SWING INSTEAD OF A STRAIGHT WHEN HE'S LEANING BACK!?

HEY WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, RIVERA!? I THOUGHT YOU WERE A KO-ARTIST!

THAT'S RIGHT!

WHAT'S SO FUNNY? HUH?

H-HE'S STARTING TO LAUGH FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE FIRST KNOCK DOWN...

C-CARLOS IS LAUGHING...

IT SOUNDS LIKE HE FIGURED SOMETHING OUT...

CLEANING: HAPPYSCANS
TRANLATIONS: HOX
TYPESETTING: ARLES